

Syria, Egypt: Talks should go on

DAMASCUS (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad agreed Monday that Middle East peace talks should continue. "They emphasised the importance of coordination among the Arab parties to continue the peace process and secure Arab rights," Mr. Assad's spokesman Jibril Kourieh told Reuters. Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Assad spent more than six hours together — their first meeting since Arab-Israeli peace talks began in Madrid on Oct. 30. "The talks dealt with the situation and developments in the region and with the peace process after the first stage... and the talks confronting Arabs for the next stage," Mr. Kourieh said. Mr. Mubarak left for home after the talks. The U.S. has proposed Washington and Dec. 4 for separate bilateral talks between Israel and Syria, Lebanon and Dec. 4 for separate Palestinian delegation. Syria opposes the timing of broader talks which Israel and the U.S. want to parallel the bilateral discussions. Damascus wants the multilateral talks postponed until a tangible result is achieved from the bilateral talks, namely Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.



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Gulf ministers meet in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Foreign and Finance ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met in Kuwait Monday to lay the political and economic groundwork for a summit of the six-nation grouping next month. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said the summit, scheduled for Dec. 23, would be of "great importance in deciding the future path of the GCC." The foreign ministers of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) arrived in the emirate on Monday and joined the GCC finance ministers who began their meetings on Sunday. The foreign ministers were expected to discuss the fate of Kuwaiti prisoners-of-war still held in Iraq, the demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait border, and compensation by Baghdad to the emirate. GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara told reporters the two-day finance ministers' meeting was set to "reactivate and improve economic coordination among Gulf states and decide on the future." Mr. Bishara said the ministers made recommendations on a multi-billion dollar fund to channel aid to impoverished countries affected by the Gulf crisis. Their recommendations would be debated by the foreign ministers.

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Israel decides not to charge Ashrawi

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's attorney general has decided not to indict Palestinian leader Hanan Ashrawi on charges of meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials, the justice ministry said on Monday. "Attorney General Yosef Harish has decided not to indict Ashrawi," spokeswoman Etti Eshed said. She did not elaborate. Israeli police spurred an international outcry earlier this month when they recommended that Dr. Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to Arab-Israeli peace talks, be indicted for allegedly meeting PLO officials. When the decision was announced, Dr. Ashrawi was attending a meeting with U.S. consul general in occupied Jerusalem Molly Williams, at which the Palestinian delegation was expected to give its agreement to resuming peace talks in Washington on Dec. 4.

Old guard claims victory in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE (R) — Former Communist Party boss Rakhmon Nabiyev claimed victory Monday in presidential elections in remote Soviet Tajikistan, but his opponent immediately raised allegations of fraud. Mr. Nabiyev's vice-presidential running mate, Nazim Dostov, said preliminary results gave him ticket 59.3 per cent of the vote in Sunday's polls in the Central Asian Republic. "If that is the case, it has been falsified," said Davlat Khodonzarov, a liberal film maker who was backed by the Republican Democratic Party and the resurgent Islamic movement. He refused to elaborate further on his charges but warned publicly ahead of the vote that the communist-controlled bureaucracy could rig the result. TASS news agency put Mr. Nabiyev's total at 58 per cent, with Mr. Khodonzarov getting just over one quarter of the votes. Six other candidates trailed badly.

Turkish troops kill four rebel Kurds

ANKARA (R) — Turkish troops have killed four separatist rebel Kurds whose guerrilla group has threatened death to so-called government collaborators. Three rebels of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), fighting to set up an independent Kurdish state, died in a clash near southeastern Diyarbakir Saturday, a statement from the regional governorate said Monday. It said two guerrillas of the outlawed group had given themselves up in other towns of Diyarbakir province last week. Another rebel was killed in a clash in Kahramanmaraş province, two were captured and one surrendered, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said. Clandestine PKK leaflets warned local Kurds not to assist government forces and threatened "collaborators" with death.

N. Korea denies plan to sign nuclear pact

BEIJING (R) — North Korea's ambassador to China hit out Monday at U.S. pressure over its nuclear programme and said reports it planned to open nuclear facilities to international inspection were "absolutely fabricated." Ambassador Chu Chang Jun said Washington's campaign to force Pyongyang unilaterally to accept inspection of its nuclear facilities was really part of a larger effort aimed at toppling North Korean communism. He dismissed a report in South Korea's Dong-A Ilbo, which last week said Pyongyang was preparing to sign a nuclear inspection pact with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), perhaps as early as February.

Iran seizes over 2 tonnes of morphine

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian police seized more than 2.2 tonnes of morphine hidden in a cement truck in the central Iranian desert, Tehran Radio said Monday. The shipment had come from Afghanistan and Pakistan and the international band intending to smuggle it to Europe had been under surveillance for some time, the radio added.

Palestinians await U.S. reply to request for visas

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestinian delegation is awaiting an American affirmation that U.S. visas will be issued to advisors of the Palestinian peace negotiators for the second round of bilateral talks with Israel tentatively scheduled to begin in Washington on Dec. 4, the chief Palestinian negotiator said Monday.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi also said the Palestinian side would insist on tackling the issue of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as the first item on the agenda for the bilateral talks and said if there was no freeze in Israel's settlement activities "there will be no bilateral talks."

"We have sent a list of names of the people who we want to accompany our delegation, and as soon as the American approval comes for these people's visas we will formally accept the invitation to Washington," Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

Faisal Hussein, who heads the overall Palestinian delegation, is not on the negotiating team, and Hanan Ashrawi, spokesperson for the delegation, are in direct contact with Washington, said Dr. Abdul Shafi, who returned from a two-day visit to the Soviet Union Sunday.

Dr. Abdul Shafi, a physician

from the occupied Gaza Strip who led the negotiating team to the Middle East peace conference which opened in Madrid Oct. 30, indicated that the Palestinians had accepted in principle Washington as the venue for bilateral talks.

Jordan and Lebanon have accepted the U.S. invitation. The Israeli cabinet was still debating the issue Monday and Syria has not signalled its position yet.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee Member Yasser Arafat said in a statement in Damascus Monday that the Syrians have accepted in principle to go to Washington, although they are attaching some conditions to their acceptance.

Palestinian negotiators and PLO officials have welcomed the American invitation to the Palestinian delegation but have asked for the same facilities and equal treatment with all other parties that Spain offered to the Palestinians for the opening of the peace conference last month.

There was no immediate indication of how the U.S. administration viewed the Palestinian request. Washington broke off an 18-month dialogue with the PLO in July 1990 after an abortive raid on Tel Aviv by a PLO faction.

"I think everything will move smoothly," said a confident Abdul Shafi, who captivated the

audience at the Madrid conference with his eloquent presentation of the Palestinian case to the international community.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said the future of the bilateral talks would hinge on the issue of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

"We are spending a lot of time discussing how this situation can be dealt with, because if there is not a solution to the settlement issue then there will be no bilateral talks for the Palestinian delegation," Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

Sufficient pressure on Israel to stop the settlements, Palestinian leaders have maintained, can only come from the U.S.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said that the U.S. had not given the Palestinians any assurances that settlements will stop, "but the basis of the assurances were U.N. resolutions and international law, which in effect mean an end to the settlements."

"America remains the main party that has effective leverage over Israel. We are hopeful that the Americans would link the loan guarantees issue to the question of settlements," he said referring to the Jewish state's request to Washington to guarantee \$10 billion in loans it needs to settle hundreds of thousands of Soviet immigrants.

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Israel inches towards accepting U.S. invitation

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel inched Monday towards accepting a U.S. proposal to resume Middle East peace talks in Washington but sought to downgrade their importance.

The United States has invited Israel, the Palestinians and neighbouring Arab states to the U.S. capital on Dec. 4 to resume the unprecedented talks they began in Madrid this month.

"To launch the talks in Washington in order to conclude a few procedural matters appears possible to me," said Transport Minister Moshe Katzav, who is close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"But it must be clear that when the real substantive, intensive and continuing bilateral talks began... it is better to conduct them here in the region and that is what must be done," he told Israel Radio.

Mr. Katzav's remarks were more conciliatory than those by ministers who complained on Sunday that the United States, Israel's closest ally and supplier of more than \$3 billion in annual aid, was putting unjust pressure on Israel.

Israel's ambassador to

Washington, Zalman Shoval, told army radio on Monday it was a "theoretical possibility" Israel would agree to Washington so long as talks soon moved to the region.

Israel was still awaiting clarifications from the Bush administration, which, despite scheduling the meeting for Washington, had agreed in principle the talks should take place in the Middle East, he added.

A decision could be left to Israel's policy-making inner cabinet, which usually meets on Wednesdays, he added.

An opinion poll published on Monday in Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's biggest newspaper, showed the public overwhelmingly wanted Mr. Shamir to accept the Washington invitation.

The survey, by the Dahaf Institute, showed 78 per cent of the 619 Israelis it contacted by telephone on Sunday believed Israel should say yes.

Critics accuse Mr. Shamir of stalling because he fears U.S. and Arab pressure to give up occupied Arab territories, which he asserts is essential to Israeli

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Lebanese army duels with Israelis, allies

SIDON (R) — The Lebanese army exchanged artillery and tank fire with Israeli troops and their militia allies in South Lebanon Monday after three Lebanese soldiers were killed in a rocket attack.

Military sources said a Lebanese army jeep driving between the villages of Louwaizeh and Milkh came under rocket fire from the nearby Sojod Hill, controlled by Israeli troops and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

The jeep was destroyed, three soldiers were burnt to death and two were wounded, they added. The attack and the artillery exchanges, the most serious confrontation between the Lebanese army and Israeli and SLA forces in years, occurred as Lebanon accepted a U.S. invitation to resume Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington next month.

Lebanese army troops in South Lebanon were put on high alert as the artillery duels continued into the night.

SLA sources, claiming responsibility for the attack, said their militiamen fired machine guns at a car suspected of carrying pro-Israeli Hizbollah guerrillas. Security sources said the jeep

was hit when an Israeli-made Merkava tank fired three rounds at it.

An Israeli army spokesman said Israeli forces attacking Hizbollah positions may have hit the Lebanese troops by mistake.

"Hizbollah targets were hit by the fire. According to initial reports it is possible some Lebanese army soldiers that were near the targets were also hurt," he added.

"The army refrains from firing at Lebanese soldiers and concentrates its operations against 'terrorist' targets," he said. "If Lebanese soldiers were hurt from the shelling today we are sorry."

Army tanks, rocket launchers and artillery pounded Sojod Hill right after the attack, prompting Israeli and SLA field artillery to blast army positions in the mountainous Iqlim Al Tufah region, south of Beirut.

There was no immediate word on casualties from the bombardment that forced civilians in the area and the nearby market town of Nabatieh to rush to their shelters, security sources said.

Louwaizeh and Milkh, on the eastern tip of Iqlim Al Tufah, are used by guerrillas to attack Israeli and SLA positions

PLO accepts Moscow as venue for multilateral negotiations

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has accepted Moscow as the venue for multilateral talks between Middle East states and expects a preparatory meeting to take place there in late December, a PLO leader said Monday.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told Reuters: "We have informed the Soviet Union of our favourable response to Moscow hosting the multilateral negotiations."

"There is a probability a preparatory meeting will take place at the end of December," he added.

Mr. Abed Rabbo, part of a Palestinian delegation which saw Soviet Foreign Minister Edvard Shevardnadze in Moscow Saturday said the first meeting would be procedural and at experts level.

The PLO itself would not take part in the meeting because of Israeli objections. As at the Madrid peace conference, Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories would be part of a joint delegation with Jordan.

The multilateral talks, which would cover arms control, trade, the environment and water rights, are the third stage in the peace process which began in Madrid.

The first state was an open-door conference followed by bilateral talks between Israel and each of Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

On the U.S. invitation to a second round of bilateral talks in Washington on Dec. 4, Mr. Abed Rabbo and Executive Committee colleague Abdullah Hourani said the Palestinian delegation was still awaiting word from Washington on its request for visas for Palestinians, including PLO members.

"Our decision to go to Washington hangs on the answer we receive on the facilities we have asked for and which are the same as those we received in Madrid," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

The Spanish authorities gave PLO members visas for the Madrid conference although they were not official delegates.



King: Confederation possible

LONDON (R) — His Majesty King Hussein was quoted Monday as saying that a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation with a central government at its head was a strong possibility.

In an interview with Britain's Independent newspaper, he said Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were "working together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence which was not possible in the past."

The King was speaking of future relations between Jordan

and a self-governing Palestinian administration on the occupied territories.

If a confederal government was agreed, King Hussein said, it would probably be along lines Jordan first advocated in the early 1970s.

"Two governments, two local parliaments and at the higher level, a central government representing both people," he said.

King Hussein also said he wanted the fate of more than 300,000 Jordanians and Palesti-

nians with Jordanian passports, who fled Kuwait for Jordan after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, to be discussed at multilateral Middle East peace talks.

The Independent said the King did not spell out any specific proposals on the Kuwait issue.

But the newspaper said Jordan evidently believed that an international conference should be the best place to discuss the issue because it could win support from the United States and others.

U.S. sent detailed proposals with invitation

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States sent Arabs and Israelis detailed proposals on how peace talks should develop in last week's invitations to resume negotiations in Washington next week, diplomatic sources said Monday.

One source said the invitation to Israel was in a four-to-five-page document. It contained detailed ideas on the occupied Golan Heights and South Lebanon and on how negotiations on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip should proceed.

However the sources were not willing to say exactly what the U.S. proposals were.

The letters said that in order to prepare the three sets of negotiations, between Israel and Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, affirmative answers were requested by Monday.

So far, Jordan and Lebanon have accepted the proposal to resume the talks in Washington

on Dec. 4. The Palestinians have indicated they would probably agree but Israel, angered that Washington overruled its demand to hold the talks in the Middle East, has delayed its response.

Israeli officials said there would be no answer by Monday.

The diplomatic sources said the invitations were significant because they contained the first U.S. proposals aimed at bringing the parties closer together since the negotiations were inaugurated in Madrid last month.

The letter was seen as a signal that the United States intended to push the pace of the negotiations, using its prestige as the dominant power in the Middle East to compel each side to make concessions.

The letters also attempted to set out in detail what each side's current position was on each contentious issue.

On Palestinian self-rule, the letters to Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians suggested that the sides avoid discussing major

potential stumbling blocks, such as who should control land and water and who should retain sovereignty, until later.

Instead, it proposed that each side lay out its own model for an autonomous Palestinian region.

The letters to Jordan and Israel suggested they should look at improving the cross-border cooperation.

Shaath proposes Helsinki

A Palestinian official proposed Monday that Helsinki should host Middle East peace talks as early as the first week of January after the planned meeting in Washington next month.

Nabil Shaath, chairman of the Palestine National Council's Political Affairs Committee, also said he saw little hope of the peace talks succeeding unless Israel suspended settlement in the occupied territories.

"If Israel doesn't stop settlement before the end of January, I

don't see much hope of the process continuing successfully after that," said Mr. Shaath, political adviser to Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Dr. Shaath told a news conference he proposed Helsinki as a venue for the talks to Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen earlier Monday.

"We asked him if Finland would be ready to host the continuing and maybe permanent seat of the bilateral negotiations when the meetings in Washington are finished and the sponsors and the partners in the negotiations would be looking for a new place," he said.

A Finnish Foreign Ministry official said: "The Palestinians explained that they would wish Helsinki to be the seat of the next round and Mr. Vayrynen listened to this and promised to study the proposal."

Asked when the talks could

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Some of the defendants who were found guilty and sentenced by the State Security Court in the trial of 'Mohammad's Army' members



8 sentenced to death, 13 jailed in Mohammad's Army trial

AMMAN (I.T.) — The State Security Court Monday sentenced eight men to death after finding them guilty of plotting to illegally change the country's constitution, possessing explosives and arms, attempting murder and terror acts, belonging to an illegal group, collecting funds for illegal organisations, and using fake car licence plates.

The verdict, passed by a three-judge panel at the Marka chambers of the court, needs the endorsement of the prime minister and then His Majesty King Hussein to be carried out. The sentences cannot be appealed.

The eight are part of 20 people found guilty of belonging to an organisation called "Mohammad's Army." The rest received sentences ranging from four and a half years to life.

While four were sentenced to life, the founder of the group, Samih Abu Zeidan, had his sentence reduced from death to 15 years in jail because "he had no

precedence and because of old age."

The 20 men were part of over 100 people arrested earlier this year by security forces.

Eighty four were released in August. The Lower House of Parliament's Committee for Public Freedoms accused security forces in August of torturing the detainees. The government rejected the committee's findings as untrue.

When the court hearing opened in September the defence argued that the court was incompetent to handle the case and that the defendants had signed confessions under duress and torture. The court refuted this and the trial proceeded.

In Monday's verdict, the chief judge, Colonel Yousef Faouri, read a long statement asserting the validity of the court and detailing the history of Mohammad's Army's organisation and the actions that led to the arrest and trial of the group's members.

He said that the group, which originally was formed in support of the Afghan Mujahideen, turned into an anti-government organisation in 1988.

Col. Faouri said the group's activities included monitoring of army positions, monitoring the Canadian ambassador's residence, firing at a liquor store, and planting explosives in a priest's car and in an intelligence officer's car.

The following eight were sentenced to death: Fuad Suleiman, Jawad Al Faqih, Habes Al Qaisi, Nabil Abu Hartheih, Mohammad Dajani, Ziad Yoonis, Jamal Shaker Abu Jama' (in absentia), and Ismail Bishawi (in absentia). The following were given life sentences: Mustafa Suleiman, Yousef Abu Ali, Safim Saidi and Khader Abu Hawsher.

Mohammad Khalifa, Haitham Darwish, Waleed Abu Al Saad and Samih Abu Zeidan were

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U.N. panel unaware of reported Iraqi oil exports

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council's Sanctions Committee has no information about a report that Iraq is quietly exporting small quantities of refined oil products in defiance of U.N. sanctions, a member of the committee said Monday.

He was responding to questions about a report from Nicosia, Cyprus, quoting Middle East diplomats as saying the oil products were being exported by road to Jordan and then on to Lebanon through Syria. Small quantities were also being sent by road to Turkey, the report said.

Although the quantities were small, they might significantly reduce Baghdad's \$100 million-a-month food import bill, it added. A member of the Austrian U.N. mission, which chairs the Sanctions Committee, told Reuters the committee was unaware of the report or of the alleged violation of U.N. sanctions.

He noted the committee did receive periodic reports from Jordan about limited quantities of oil and oil products that that country was allowed to import from Iraq for its own use, "in the light of Jordan's unique and particular situation."

This was a reference to a dispensation that the committee granted to Jordan soon after U.N. sanctions were imposed on Iraq in response to its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Jordan was treated as a special case because of its dependence on such imports and in light of the severe economic repercussions it suffered as a result of the Gulf crisis, including the influx of tens of thousands of refugees.

The oil imports are paid for by reducing debts which Iraq owes to Jordan.

The Austrian diplomat said the latest report from Jordan to the Sanctions Committee showed that between Sept. 1 and 30, Jordan imported 169,182 tons of oil and 47,881 tons of oil derivatives. He said this was consistent with previous monthly quantities.

Although the Security Council adopted a resolution in August allowing Iraq to export up to \$1.6 billion worth of oil and oil pro-

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Cicippio tipped to be freed within days

BEIRUT (R) — American Joseph Cicippio is widely expected to go free this week as Iran and the United Nations seek to close a Western hostage saga before the year ends.

Lebanese sources said he would be released by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO) in a few days.

Mr. Cicippio, a 61-year-old accountant, has been a captive for more than five years.

The sources told Reuters that freeing the last five Western hostages was no longer linked to Israel releasing Arab detainees. But they added they expected the Jewish state to free prisoners in weeks.

Diplomats in Beirut said the release of the seventh Western hostage since U.N. mediation began last August depended on the return of U.N. envoy Giamdomenico Picco to Syria and Lebanon.

"Picco has to be here before any hostage release in Lebanon because he supervises them so we expect soon to hear his back," said a Western diplomat, adding he might already be in Tebran.

Hopes that the hostage crisis would be over by the end of the year soared last week after Iranian-backed Lebanese leaders said ending the problem was no longer linked to hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinians held by Israel and an allied militia.

"That is exactly what we all demanded, completely in vain, for years," said a senior Western envoy. "If there is now no link they should all be released."

Church of England envoy Terry Waite and American Thomas Sutherland were freed a week ago with no reciprocal release by Israel, which says it only exchanges its prisoners for word on missing Israeli servicemen.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said last Wednesday Mr. Cicippio, deputy controller at the American University of Beirut, "stood a better chance" than the other hostages of being freed next week.

IRNA, in a report from Beirut, said it was strongly possible that a Western hostage would be freed by the end of the week.

The Tehran Times newspaper, which has proved more accurate than IRNA in forecasting previous releases, said Wednesday that one or two hostages might be freed by the end of this month.

Iran defends airlift to Afghan Shiites

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has publicly acknowledged sending food supplies to a needy area of neighbouring Afghanistan, the official news agency IRNA said Monday.

An Iranian leader said this was a humanitarian measure.

First vice-President Hassan Ebrahim Habibi gave no details of how the food was dispatched. But his remark appeared to confirm Kabul reports that Iran sent a transport aircraft with food for hungry Shiite Muslims in the last few days.

Iran, already sheltering more refugees than any other country, said last week it was ready to mount a mercy airlift to avert a winter exodus of starving Shiite tribesmen from Afghanistan.

United Nations sources in the Afghan capital Friday quoted eyewitnesses as saying an Iranian C-130 Hercules flew low over Bamian and parachuted supplies into the central Afghan town.

Afghan Information Minister Ahmad Bashir Roigari denied there had been any flight, and the sources said it was not clear whether Iran received clearance from Kabul.

Bamian, a premier tourist destination before the civil war began in 1978, is held by guerrillas who look to Iran for spiritual guidance.

Mr. Habibi said that Iran's recent measures to send food to Bamian and allowing the U.N. to send food to Iraq through Iraq-Afghan borders were part of Tehran's humanitarian measures.

"Disputes with governments cannot force Iran to forgo sending relief aid to people in the neighbouring countries," Mr. Habibi, the government spokesman, told reporters at his weekly news conference.

On the selection of Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Boutros Ghali as the new U.N. secretary-general, Mr. Habibi said: "A man from Africa has been elected but preparations should be made so that an Asian will be elected in the next term."

Mr. Habibi's remarks were made a day after Iran asked the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to help supervise "the influx of a great number of Afghan refugees towards the Iranian border," IRNA reported.

It said the appeal was made by Deputy Interior Minister Ahmad Hosseini to J.M. Fakhouri, deputy director of the UNHCR's regional bureau for South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

Arabs hope for better human rights record in 1990s

CAIRO (R) — The worldwide trend towards democracy may lead to improvements in human rights in the Arab World despite the apparent strength of autocratic governments, according to speakers at an Arab human rights conference.

"I'm not pessimistic," said Said Al Zeidan, a professor of sociology at Bir Zeit University on the Israeli-occupied West Bank. "The examples of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have shown that authoritarian governments are unable to deal with the problems of the age."

"Widespread human rights abuses are themselves a sign of sickness in a regime, weakness in the status quo," he told a symposium of about 30 academics and human rights activists from 10 Arab countries.

Many Arab countries are authoritarian and have human rights records which are appalling. But some, such as Jordan and Algeria, have started tentative experiments with democracy.

Although delegates felt the tide of history was with them, they saw few tangible signs that human rights would improve quickly or soon.

Political prisoners, arbitrary arrest, torture and execution remain common in the region, according to reports by international human rights agencies.

"Some parts of our societies haven't even heard of human rights yet," said Mouzha Ghobashi, a university lecturer from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Activists complained that many Arab governments practise selective human rights, allowing their intellectuals to chatter among themselves but thwarting any effective organisation which might peacefully challenge their hold on power.

"It's difficult to go into the street and raise awareness among the people," said Ahmad Othmani, a Tunisian living in Paris. "Freedom remains the prerogative of an intellectual elite."

But blame for human rights abuses could not be laid entirely at the door of governments and authority, said Fouad Zakaria, an Egyptian professor of philosophy at the University of Kuwait.

"The normal Arab citizen has no idea of his rights or anyone else's, which makes it very easy to systematically abuse them," he said.

"If someone turns up his television so that it blasts out the whole neighbourhood, no one's going to come to him and say 'you're infringing my rights,'" Mr. Zakaria added.

Mr. Zakaria said militant Muslim groups, prominent players in the embryonic democracies of the Middle East and feared by secular leaders across the Arab World, should be allowed to operate as freely as other groups.

"These groups were there before, democracy has just allowed them to surface," he said. "But they only flourish when democracy is inadequate — allow them and their opponents complete freedom and they'll fade away."

Selim Nasr, a Lebanese academic, said higher priority should be given to conflicts involving religious and ethnic minorities, which had killed over a million people in the last 30 years, compared to 50,000 in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The symposium was organised by the Ben Khaldoun Centre for Development Studies, a private Egyptian organisation.

U.S. said planning new drive to oust Saddam

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration is considering a more aggressive campaign to force the overthrow of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Washington Post reported Monday.

The Post, quoting unidentified senior U.S. officials, said the proposals included giving Iraqi rebels military training and spare parts, or helping to protect a provisional, alternative government which some insurgents wanted to establish in northern Iraq.

The newspaper said President George Bush, frustrated by the inconclusive end to the Gulf war, now faced new criticism from congressional Democrats and challengers in next year's presidential elections.

There were differing views among officials about whether any plan to oust President Saddam was worth the effort, the newspaper said.

U.S. intelligence experts believed the plans would fail, largely because they depended upon some degree of American leverage over internal Iraqi politics and some degree of cooperation among Iraqi rebel groups, the Post reported.

"There are lots of ideas out there... I would not rule out that we would move in more aggressive ways," said one official involved in the deliberations. "The process is very alive... and nothing has been rejected."

Republican Party sources told the Post that Mr. Bush was increasingly concerned that his Democratic opposition to next year's election would use President Saddam's continued hold on power to tarnish the Gulf victory.

Britain awaits word from Iraq

Britain said Monday it was awaiting formal authorisation from Iraq before releasing \$125 million in Iraqi assets to pay for humanitarian supplies already ordered from Britain.

Foreign Office and Industry (DTI) officials said the money to be unfrozen in return for the weekend release of Briton Ian Richter was not a random figure.

They said the sum represented the total value of orders for humanitarian goods, including food and medicine, placed by Iraq with British companies since April when the United Nations exempted such items from sanctions against Baghdad.

"It's a question of food and humanitarian items," said one official, adding that export licences had already been approved.

It was previously reported the Iraqi assets would be used to pay for goods yet to be ordered.

The orders for the humanitarian supplies had not been filled because Iraq had been unable to specify how it would pay for them.

Another official said the next step would be formal authorisation from Iraq to go ahead and use the \$125 million in unfrozen assets to pay for the orders.

The government would also need Iraq to specify which of its British bank accounts should be debited.

A DTI official said the orders included about £40 million (\$72 million) in food, £20 million (\$36 million) in medical supplies and the rest in public health-related equipment such as water provision.

The unfrozen Iraqi assets are believed to consist of both dollar and sterling deposits at British banks.

Britain will be the first Western nation to unfreeze Iraqi assets blocked since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Iraq says it has about \$4.5 billion of assets frozen in foreign banks, mainly in Britain and the United States.

Libya urges international inquiry into Pan Am blast

EDINBURGH (R) — Libya has reaffirmed it will not hand over two men accused by Britain and the United States of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing but will back an international inquiry, a British member of parliament said Monday.

Tam Dalyell, a Scottish member of the opposition Labour Party, said two Libyan officials with whom he had lengthy telephone conversations Saturday said Tripoli would support and cooperate with an international inquiry.

They said Libya wanted the probe carried out under the auspices of a body such as the United Nations, he added.

"They said they would like the whole question of terrorism discussed in an international inquiry," Mr. Dalyell said.

Mr. Dalyell said the two — Professor Abdullah Zabedi and Abdullah Bibas — denied Libya was responsible for the bomb that ripped apart the Pan Am jumbo jet over the Scottish town of Lockerbie, killing 270 people on board and on the ground.

Pan Am Flight 103 was bound for New York.

Mr. Dalyell, who returned from a visit to Libya three weeks ago, said the two officials noted Israel's secret service had publicly accused Syria and Iran of involvement in the December 1988 bombing.

He said he could not rule out involvement of the two Libyans charged with the bombing by Britain and the United States but believed there was much more to the bombing than that.

He said Mr. Bibas and Prof. Zabedi — a former lecturer at Michigan University who is now adviser on African affairs to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi — reiterated that Libya had no intention of extraditing the two men.

London and Washington have warned of serious consequences if the two men, cited in indictments as Libyan intelligence agents, were not handed over.

Mr. Dalyell said he was alarmed about possible military action against Libya.

"It would be folly on a monstrous scale to launch a military attack on Libya," he said. "We can be certain that even those members of the Arab World who do not love President Qadhafi would resent it totally."

Libya has asked King Hassan of Morocco to contact the United States and Britain about alleged Libyan involvement in the bombing of the Pan Am airliner, the Libyan embassy in Rabat said.

The embassy said the request was passed on to the king by Khouelidi Hamidi, a special envoy of Col. Qadhafi.

Mr. Hamidi was quoted by the embassy as saying the king, as chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union, was well placed to deal with the question. The union groups Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

The embassy said Mr. Hamidi had given King Hassan "tangible proof which contradicted allegations published by international media including the press in Britain and America."

Mr. Hamidi, who ranks third in the Libyan hierarchy, is one of several envoys sent to Arab states by Col. Qadhafi, whose country is under threat of Western sanctions over the Lockerbie affair.

Mr. Hamidi met Algerian President Chadli Benjedid in Algiers on Monday. The Algerian Foreign Ministry has called for restraint over Western accusations that Libyans were responsible for blowing up American and French airliners, killing hundreds of people, in 1988 and 1989. Libya has denied involvement in either attack.

Palestinians await U.S. reply

(Continued from page 1)

Recalling the American pressure on Israel to withdraw from Gaza in 1956 and 1957, after the Suez war and a four-month Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip, Dr. Abdul Shafi said: "After then U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower gave Israel an ultimatum to withdraw, the Israelis were gone — overnight."

Dr. Abdul Shafi said that while his visit to Moscow did not produce Soviet assurances that Moscow would influence Soviet Jewish emigration but it was understood that the Soviets would try to facilitate the opening of new destinations for Soviet Jewish emigrants.

"It is a mockery that once the immigrant is free to leave the Soviet Union he is not free to go anywhere else except for Israel... the are trying to change this in cooperation with the Americans in order to give them a choice," Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

"The Soviets understand the Palestinian problem very well," Dr. Abdul Shafi said. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze "knows the problems and I think he will play a positive role in ensuring that the outcome of the talks will be based on international legitimacy."

Dr. Abdul Shafi added that the Palestinian delegation had talked to the Soviets about the possibility of PLO participation in the multilateral talks, which are scheduled to be held in Moscow in mid-December.

The Palestinian delegation will start regrouping in Amman today, according to Dr. Abdul Shafi.

Dr. Abdul Shafi met with the foreign minister, Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, on Monday, and discussed with him joint Jordanian-Palestinian coordination on the peace front.

Although the Palestinians and other Arab delegates had rejected Israel's demand that the bilateral talks be held in the Middle East, Dr. Abdul Shafi said the Palestinians would consider moving the talks to the region if there was "meaningful progress in the talks in Washington."

Dr. Abdul Shafi warned that if there was no substantial progress on the Palestinian track of the conflict within a reasonable timeframe, then the negotiators will have to decide "whether there is any profit to be gained from continuing to deal with the intransigence of the Israelis. There has to be progress rather quickly, within months."

Dr. Abdul Shafi said that a proposed trilateral coordination meeting of Palestinian-Jordanian and Syrian delegates was postponed because of technical hitches but that he had hoped for "better coordination ahead of the bilateral talks."

Jordan Times reporter Ghadeer Tabir contributed to this report.

U.N. panel unaware of Iraqi exports

(Continued from page 1)

from the oil sales would have to be paid into U.N. escrow account, with about one third being funnelled off for war reparations and to meet other war debts. The United Nations would also monitor all phases of the oil sales as well as the distribution of humanitarian supplies.

ducts over a six-month period to buy food and other civilian necessities. Baghdad refuses to implement the scheme, which it considers a violation of its sovereignty. Under the scheme, all proceeds

U.S. sent detailed proposals

(Continued from page 1)

take place, Mr. Shafat said: "This might be as early as the first week of January."

He said talks proposed by the United States for Washington on Dec. 4 were expected to last about 15 days. There would be a 15-day break for Christmas and the New Year and the talks would resume in the first half of January.

Dr. Shafat, in Finland for a Nordic parliamentary meeting on peace and security in the Middle East, said Helsinki was considered as a venue for the first round of talks before Madrid was chosen.

The PLO's representative in Syria said Monday the organisation wanted members of its Executive Committee in Washington during the next stage of peace talks with Israel.

"There are a number of facilities required for the Palestinian delegation such as the presence of technical experts and of members of the PLO Executive Committee," Mahmoud Khaldi told Reuters.

"We will not accept less than we got in Madrid," PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Amer told reporters in Damascus: "We have agreed to say 'yes' to Washington on condition that the PLO gets the facilities it needs from the United States."

"This includes entry and movement of Palestinians on the same footing as other delegations," Mr. Amer said after talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Hakim Khaddam.

"Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir does not want the talks to succeed," Mr. Khaldi told Reuters.

"That's why he wants to shift from one place to another. He does not want the American people to get a first-hand taste of Israel's obstinacy and how they are blocking the negotiations."

Israel may accept invitation

(Continued from page 1)

"security." The hardline rightist leader denies he is procrastinating.

The Bush administration suggested Washington after Arab states rejected Mr. Shamir's proposal to meet in the Middle East, including Israel, or in Cyprus.

Mr. Shamir insists on holding talks in or near the region. The Arabs demand progress first on their demand that Israel withdraw from the occupied territories.

Mr. Shamir, who returned Sunday from a 10-day trip to the United States that included talks with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, consulted cabinet ministers from his Likud Party on Monday.

Trade Minister Moshe Nissim said after the meeting the inner cabinet would decide on Wednesday but a final vote might be left to a meeting of the full cabinet on Sunday.

"We are speaking of a possibility of perhaps one or two meetings in Washington, on the assumption and agreement in advance that the other talks will be in the region and adjacent area," Mr. Nissim told Israel Radio.

Lebanon accepted Monday the U.S. invitation to Washington.

8 sentenced

(Continued from page 1)

sentenced to 15 years. Khalid Hammad and Amer Abu Amer got 10 years each. Ibrahim Abu Salma got 7½ years, and Mohammad Obeidi got four and a half years.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Ghozali: Election will go ahead as scheduled

PARIS (R) — Algeria's first multi-party general election will go ahead on Dec. 26 as planned despite the threat of an opposition boycott, Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali said in a newspaper interview published Monday. "They will go ahead on the scheduled date," Mr. Ghozali told the French daily Le Figaro. "Some people say these elections are premature. I think they are wrong." The fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the leading opposition force, has repeatedly threatened to boycott the poll unless its imprisoned leaders are freed and its headquarters returned to its control. President Chadli Benjedid postponed the election, originally due on June 27, and imposed a state of siege after clashes between FIS militants and security forces in which 55 people died. The state of siege has been lifted but eight FIS leaders, including its president, Abbassi Madani, and his deputy, Ali Belhadj, are in military detention. Mr. Ghozali said Algerians were fed up with nearly 30 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN) and that was why the FIS was so popular. "Don't forget that people don't trust us any more," he said. "We have lied to them too much. We have to build a democracy for a disgusted population."

Petrol-bombers hit Istanbul tax office

ISTANBUL (R) — Petrol-bomb attackers damaged a tax office and a car showroom in Istanbul Sunday night, Anatolian news agency said Monday. No one was injured. A caller to Istanbul newspapers said the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), fighting for an independent Kurdistan in the southeast since 1984, had bombed the showroom owned by Turkish car maker Tofas. More than 3,300 people have been killed in PKK's rural insurgency which the group has recently vowed to spread to big cities as well. The semi-official Anatolian said the underground far-left group, Turkish Workers' and Peasants' Liberation Army (Tiklo), claimed the bombing of the tax office in Halkali district on the outskirts of Istanbul. Tiklo also claimed responsibility for the Friday night killing of a policeman at an Istanbul bus stop.

Iraq: 500,000 unexploded bombs defused

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Sunday its military experts had defused more than 500,000 unexploded bombs left over from the Gulf war. "The number of unexploded bombs and projectiles which were dropped on different parts of Iraq by the aggressive alliance of 30 countries since the beginning of the Mother of All Battles... amounted to 516,087," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. It said military experts, technicians and engineers "treated and defused these perditional bombs which were dropped on our army units, vital targets and residential areas." The U.S.-led allies bombed Iraq in a 42-day air assault that began on Jan. 17.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Bouli
18:05 Clementine
18:30 Systeme Canche
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Who's the Boss
21:10 Our Home
22:00 News in English
22:20 French feature film

PRAYER TIMES

06:47 Fajr
06:50 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:22 Dhuha
14:13 Asr
16:37 Maghrib
18:53 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 62785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 635356
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623024, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will continue to be warm and partly cloudy. Winds will be light and variable, becoming northeasterly moderate at times. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 10 / 23
Aqaba 15 / 30

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Salman Daboubi 776751
Dr. Mohammad Sawra 732056
Dr. Mohammad Manna 741444
Dr. Joseph Imah 770560
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 776356
Al Assas pharmacy 637025
Nairookh pharmacy 626762
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsal pharmacy 697660

IRBID:
Dr. Abdul Majid Ghazalbeh (—)

Deserts 9 / 24
Jordan Valley 15 / 29

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 23, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

Al Sharan' pharmacy (273825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Salim Al Lawzi (—)
Khalidh pharmacy 95417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 603041
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 77121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 60321
Hotel Complaints 60500
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Assiout Municipality 661111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queens Airs Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 513813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akil Maternity, J. Amn. 643411/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mathias, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsal 661714
Shamsal Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/7
Al-Ahl, Abdali 661646
Naim, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)883323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)902560
The Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Vilam Modern Hospital (09)990990
DEBID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)272555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Be Al Nefes Hospital (02)274100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)341111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)32005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:50 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:05 New York, Montreal (RJ)
17:05 Frankfurt, Belgrade (RJ)
19:20 Tripoli (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

19:35 Beirut (ME)
11:05 Bucharest (MS)
RJ Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:30 London (RJ)
08:40 Tripoli (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:10 Belgrade, Madrid (RJ)
11:50 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:50 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
11:50 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
20:00 Jeddah (RJ)
20:15 Dhahran (RJ)
20:50 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:15 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:30 Paris (AF)
08:15 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 500 / 500
Bananas 500 / 450
Beans (Mekdamma) 550 / 500
Beans 550 / 650
Cabbage 150 / 120
Carrotflower 220 / 170
Cauliflower (large) 180 / 120
Cauliflower (small) 350 / 320
Eggplant 280 / 220
Garlic 800 / 700
Potato 900 / 850
Guava 500 / 450
Lemon 180 / 120
Marrow (large) 150 / 120
Marrow (small) 350 / 320
Okra 250 / 200
Onion (dry) 170 / 120
Pepper (hot) 320 / 260
Pepper (sweet) 450 / 400
Pistachio 300 / 250
Sage 600 / 500
Spinach 220 / 160
Sweet melon 270 / 220
Tomatoes 450 / 380
Watermelon 160 / 120

King, Malaysian official discuss bilateral relations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received the commander of the Malaysian Air Force, Lieutenant General Dato Seri Al Haj Mohammad Yusoff Ben Mohammad Tasi.

The meeting was attended by the Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein and Prince Talal Bin Mohammad, the military secretary of King Hussein, and the Royal Air Force commander.

The Malaysian guest was earlier received by the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and chief of staff of land forces, Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, Marshal Abu Taleb and Lieut. Gen. Mohammad Tasi reviewed in the meeting issues of interest to Jordan and Malaysia and bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by the commander of the land forces, the commander of the Royal Air Force and members of the visiting Malaysian delegation.

The Malaysian guest and the accompanying delegation then visited the Royal Air Force command where they were received by its commander and several officers.

After being briefed on the duties of the force, the delegation then toured several air bases.

The delegation also visited the martyrs monument in Amman where Lieut. Gen. Mohammad Tasi was presented with the Monument's Medal as a token of appreciation.

King offers to pay for sick boy's treatment

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 7-year-old boy suffering from a rare disease was Monday admitted to the Jordan University Hospital in Amman for medical examination prior to determining the type of treatment he requires.

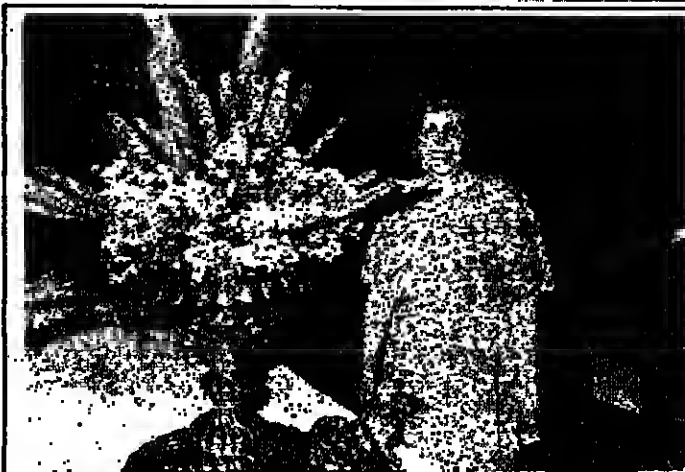
His Majesty King Hussein had said he would cover the cost of treating the boy, Hisham Ahmad Kzaleh from Mafrqa, after hearing a report on his condition on the call-in-radio programme of Radio Jordan and an appeal from his parents for help.

Hospital Director General Rizek Al Rasheed said that the hospital administration has taken the necessary arrangements for a series of laboratory and clinical tests in order to diagnose the disease. He said that tests and treatment of the boy will be conducted under the supervision of paediatrician Najwa Khouri Boulos, who works at the hospital.

According to the specialist, the treatment of the boy will be decided on after a full report about the laboratory tests has been received and analysed. She said that she would be able to determine whether the boy will receive treatment in Jordan or abroad following the final tests at the hospital.

King Hussein has said that he will cover the cost of the treatment in Jordan or abroad until the boy is completely cured. The boy's family members told Radio Jordan that an elder sister of Hisham had suffered from the same disease, which later caused her death.

Dr. Najwa Boulos was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying that the hospital has received instructions from the Royal Court about the treatment of the boy and that his parents expressed deep gratitude to the King for his humanitarian assistance.



FORMER PRESIDENT HONOURED — The Young Women's Christian Association's General Union on Monday honoured its former president, Salwa Youssef Shuweihat, in a special ceremony held at the YWCA's premises in Amman. The ceremony was attended by presidents of charity societies in Jordan, members of the Jordanian and Palestinian women's federations and a large number of the union's members in its Madaba, Hama and Amman branches. Ms. Shuweihat started her work with the YWCA as a volunteer in 1956, chaired the association several times, worked as deputy president and then president of the general union for several terms.

Improving efficiency of workers in health fields discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from eight Arab countries including Jordan opened a four-day meeting at the University of Jordan to discuss the utilisation of human resources for the development of the public health.

The meeting has been organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the University of Jordan.

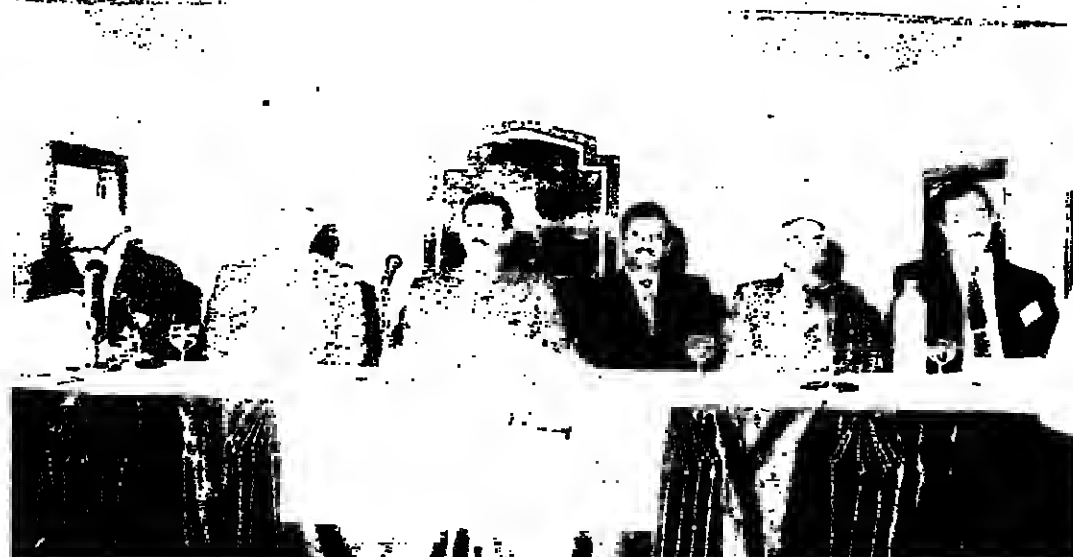
Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh told the opening session that scientific research to promote health systems in the Arab World has become of vital importance in view of its great benefits to humans. The world has limited resources but is facing growing demands for health services, he said.

One way of dealing with the problem, he said, is to promote the skill and the efficiency of the human resources involved in health institution's work. The minister voiced Jordan's appreciation to the WHO for its care and support for scientific research designed to promote health services in the Arab region.

The WHO representative in Jordan, Dr. Abdul Majid Abdul Hadi, outlined the organisation's plans for training personnel in health-related fields and said that the WHO has also been offering assistance in health research programmes.

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh outlined the university's activities and programmes for training manpower in health services.

Delegates taking part in the meetings came from Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Tunisia, Yemen as well as Jordan.



His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein and other officials Monday participated in a conference at the Philadelphia Hotel on fodder processing techniques (Petra photo)

Reducing dependence on foreign imports key to ensuring food security, officials say

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speakers at the opening session of a pan-Arab conference on fodder processing and boosting the livestock wealth of the Arab World Monday urged the private and public sectors to double their efforts to increase the amount of animal feed to ensure food security.

By the year 2000, the Arab World will be in need of 16.4 million tonnes of animal feed, which will require at least 2.3 million hectares of arable and irrigated land to produce, Minister of Agriculture Fayez Khasawneh said at the opening session.

He said this amount of land constitutes no more than one half per cent of the total area of land that is good for cultivation in the Arab World.

Between 60 and 70 per cent of the total funds spent on agriculture go to the production of animal feed and the Arab World imports most of this commodity from foreign countries, Dr. Khasawneh said. He added that Arab states have the resources and the capability of producing the animal feed they need for their livestock. The Arab World has abundant water for irrigation, land that can be reclaimed and

the expertise to produce the animal feed and save vast sums of money on imports, he said.

The four-day meeting was opened by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein, who conveyed to the delegates greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and wished the conference success in fulfilling its goals.

The conference, organised by the Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI) in cooperation with the ministries of supply and agriculture as well as the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), is accompanied by a general exhibition displaying various equipment used in the fodder processing industry by Arab and foreign firms.

Falah Saeed Jaber, the AFFI secretary general, delivered a speech at the opening session noting the importance of the discussions which are designed to discuss the serious situation in the Arab World resulting from the food shortages and the limited amounts of fodder produced to boost livestock wealth that can ensure food security.

annually are imported by Arab countries each year to meet local needs, Mr. Jaber said. He said that the Arab World has an estimated 42 million heads of cattle, 117 million heads of sheep, 12 million heads of camels and 2.6 million heads of bulls in addition to goats, horses and poultry, which together require hundreds of millions of tonnes of animal feed.

Mr. Jaber said the feed is considered as the pillar for the livestock wealth in the world. He noted that most of the requirements for agricultural development, including fodder, are imported and urged Arab states to increase efforts towards becoming independent from foreign imports.

In the first session, several working papers were reviewed by the delegates who represent Arab universities, chambers of agriculture, industry and trade, representatives of ministries of industry, agriculture, supply and trade.

Measures to protect port of Aqaba from environmental pollution discussed

AQABA (Petra) — A one day symposium on means of safeguarding the Aqaba port and its shores from pollution was organised in the port city Monday by the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

Society President Ahmad Obaidat stressed the need for protecting the shores of Aqaba, sea animals and plants from pollution.

In his address to the opening session, Mr. Obaidat urged concerned authorities in Aqaba to attain a balance between various uses of land and shore and water and the continued development of the region.

A representative from the Friedrich Naumann Foundation reviewed the main reasons behind the environmental pollution in Aqaba Gulf. He said the ves-



Ahmad Obaidat, president of the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution, is seen during the symposium.

sea is estimated at five million tonnes annually.

The seas have a waste dumping zone but no one has estimates of the degree of pollution in the sea, he said.

Jordan Ports Corporation (JPC) Director General Dureid Mahasneh spoke about the importance of keeping the shores of Aqaba clean for visitors and tourists.

The director of the Marine Science Station, Mohammad Wabeh, said that much of the pollution of the Gulf resulted from falling phosphate dust during the loading of phosphate on the waiting ships for export. But, he said, the oil tankers and the factories' waste are also causing a great amount of pollution.

Representatives of various industries and companies as well as government departments in Aqaba attended the meeting.

Iraqi official says 170,000 children have died from embargo

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The \$110 million Iraqi assets released by Britain Saturday pales in comparison to the \$3 billion Iraq needs to meet its obligations to its people, a senior Iraqi official said Sunday.

As a result of the United Nations trade embargo on Iraq, about 170,000 children have died from malnutrition and lack of medicine, said Saddam Takriti, a member of a visiting Iraqi parliamentary delegation. The figure includes children born with anaemia and those aborted by malnourished mothers, he said.

Britain Saturday released \$110 million of Iraqi assets in a deal for the freedom of British businessman Ian Richter, who had been sentenced to life in prison for bribery.

"It is small relief," said Mr. Takriti of the British move. "Iraq needs food and essential material equivalent to \$3 billion in order to fulfill its requirements to the country's (population). So you can imagine what \$110 million will bring to the country."

Mr. Takriti, who also heads Iraq's Committee on Health, Social and Religious Affairs, appealed to other nations to free Iraqi assets.

"The government (of Iraq)

is distributing the fundamental food materials calculated to the requirement of the people monthly," he said. "But the United Nations trade embargo has affected the whole population, in particular children and the elderly."

The five member parliamentary delegation arrived in Jordan on Sunday on a courtesy visit en route to Yemen. The delegation is headed by Parliamentary Secretary Abdul Qader Janabi, who held talks with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat on bilateral relations, Arab parliamentary coordination and the effects of the U.N. trade embargo.

The parliamentary delegation hopes that other countries will follow Britain's move in unfreezing Iraq's assets abroad. "This is a humanitarian issue. What is happening is a punishment to the Iraqi people," Mr. Takriti said.

Mr. Takriti denied Western media reports that the Iraqi government was withholding essential food items from certain areas of the country, said it was completely untrue.

"The people, whether they are in the south, middle or north, are receiving equal amounts of food from the government," said Mr. Takriti, who is also a professor of community medicine at the University of Baghdad. "The news agencies (that have been por-

traying this image) are trying to give an excuse to the Security Council not to lift the trade embargo."

Meanwhile, Iraq's democratisation process is continuing, he said. Even before the Gulf war, Iraq was working on laws to allow political parties to operate, Mr. Takriti said.

"This has been issued and passed from the parliament to the constitution and now we are studying the laws of the press," Mr. Takriti told the Jordan Times.

The Gulf war interrupted the move towards political pluralism. "But now the government is taking action to achieve democracy," he said.

Mr. Takriti said that it would be a slow process because Iraq is busy coping with the embargo. "Our priority is to see that people get essential food and other needs," he said.

The delegation, which left for Yemen Sunday evening, will be holding talks with officials there to strengthen relations between the two countries as well as extend thanks on behalf of the Iraqi people to the Yemenis for their support.

The delegation also thanked Mr. Arabiyat for Jordan's stand, in particular His Majesty King Hussein's efforts. "We understand the situation of Jordan in entering the peace talks with Israel," Mr. Takriti said. "We respect Jordan's decisions."

Officials call for coordinated efforts to manage area's water resources

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is only a matter of time before conflict over water resources breaks out in the Middle East, an expert said Monday at a symposium entitled "The Water Problem in the Middle East — Present and Future."

The two-day symposium taking place at the Jerusalem Hotel and arranged by the Middle East Studies Centre (MESC), aims to discuss possible solutions to the water scarcity situation, which is a problem that will become very acute in the very near future, an expert said.

"There are already two present reasons for a conflict over water," said Jawad Al Hamad, the director general of the (MESC). "The first is the unequal distribution of joint water resources between the countries sharing that source and the second is the scarcity of stored water supplies and not finding any major new water resources."

He added that underdeveloped technology in the direction and maintenance of water installations leads to the excessive loss of water.

Geographically, the water resources in the Middle East region are concentrated in three regions: Turkey, Syria and Iraq share water resources in one region; Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon share water resources in a second region; and Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia in another.

Although nine countries were expected to attend and participate in the symposium, only four countries were represented, said a disappointed Mr. Al Hamad.

"We wanted to get all the viewpoints and suggestions possible from all possible angles," Mr. Al Hamad said. "But only Syria, Sudan, Iraq and Jordan are presenting working papers during this symposium."

He added that representatives for Palestine may show up tomorrow if the Israeli-imposed curfew in Nabulus is lifted.

In Mr. Al Hamad's view, the following points should be taken into consideration in managing water resources:

1— Coordination among neighbouring countries in water studies and research work, 2— Regional cooperation among the countries for the benefit of all, 3— Reducing the amounts of wasted water in industry, agriculture and domestic use, 4— Drawing up a collective strategy to ensure continued industrial and agricultural expansions to meet the requirements of the growing population, 5— A pan-Arab strategy to face Israel's continued exploitation of Arab underground resources to set up Jewish settlements, and 6— The creation of a specialised regional corporation to take care of information and data related to water resources.

The working papers to be presented at the symposium include one entitled "Regional Water Resources and the Dire Need for its Water Supply," and "The Water Problem and its Reflection on Development Projects in the Region."

The other countries that were expected to participate are: Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Labour minister submits company dispute to arbitration committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabari has referred a labour dispute between the management of the Jordan Tourism and Spa Complex Company and workers to an arbitration committee.

A statement said that the workers had been demanding better pay and improved working conditions and approached the labour unions on the matter last August.

Some of the workers have also been laid off without reason. The dismissal and other questions related to labour affairs as well as the question of the new draft labour law will be discussed in detail by the minister and the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, led by its Secretary General Abdul Hakim Khaddam Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Mr. Khaddam chaired a meeting by the federation's executive committee Monday to discuss labour related issues and the work of the federation.

He said later that among the questions discussed was the draft labour law and the difference between the original draft and the law approved by the Prime Ministry.

Mr. Khaddam had demanded that a draft labour law submitted to the Prime Ministry's Legislative Council be passed without any changes. He said that the final version from the Prime Ministry was different in form and substance from the original draft submitted for approval.

The changed articles in the draft law concerned the question of mass dismissals of workers and organising labour unions in Jordan. These and other matters

were reviewed during the Monday meeting which also discussed questions related to workers' demands for better pay and work conditions.

Also discussed was a call by the Iraqi Labour Federation for Jordanian workers to provide them with medicines, especially those used for anaesthesia and antibiotics as well as equipment for surgical operations.

He said that the federation has urged all unions to provide any in-kind assistance to the Iraqi workers as soon as possible and as much as can be collected.

Also Monday, the federation board met with a visiting delegation representing the Libyan Workers Federation. Discussions covered prospects for future cooperation in labour-related fields.

CONDOLENCES

The family of the Jordan Times would like to extend their deepest condolences to colleague Journalist Saad G. Hattar for the passing away of his mother Alice. May her soul rest in peace.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Salwa Ammarin at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Farouq Lambaz at Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "The Natural Abstractions of Petra" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Aqaba Youth Club House.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian countryside by Yarmouk University students at the university's Student Affairs Department.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

National Bloc nominates candidate

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Bloc in the Lower House of Parliament held a meeting Monday and decided to nominate its member deputy Saleman Arar for the house speakerhip for the next session. On Sunday, the Islamic Bloc in the Lower House of Parliament decided to nominate deputy Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the current house speaker, for another term.

European Parliament delegation to visit Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the socialist group at the European Parliament led by its chairman, Claude Cheysson, will arrive in Amman next Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan. The delegation will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on the Middle East peace process in addition to economic and parliamentary issues of common interest.

Bank extends 2 loans in third quarter

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank has granted during the third quarter of the current year two loans to finance tourism projects with a total value of JD180,000, according to IDB sources. The sources said the first loan, worth JD160,000, was extended to finance the purchase of furniture and equipment for a hotel in the Amman area. The second loan was extended to a restaurant in the Amman area, the sources said.

Mozart anniversary to be observed

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with other countries of the world, marks the centennial anniversary of Mozart's death on Dec. 5. On the occasion, the National Music Conservatory

(NMC) of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation will organise, in cooperation with several cultural centres, a number of concerts in which pieces by the late musician will be played. The NMC is presenting a concert by French pianist Melisande Chauvean and German pianist Andrew Larson on Nov. 27 at the Royal Cultural Centre. Another concert will be presented by the 18-member Berlin Orchestra on Dec. 1 at the University of Jordan.

Wrestling federations begin meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly of the Arab Wrestling Federation started its meetings Monday at Al Hussein Youth City in the presence of Youth Minister Saleh Irshaidat. Participants in the three-day meetings will be discussing administrative, financial and technical reports of the federation, instructions of its championships in addition to amendments to its basic system. Representatives of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Iraq, Palestine and Jordan are participating in the meetings.

Jordan to participate in conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the third session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Environment due to be held in Damascus on Dec. 23, according to Dr. Saleh Sharaa, director of the Environment Department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Sharaa said the council will discuss issues pertaining to the impact of the Gulf war on the environment and means of financing voluntary activities in the environmental field. Jordan will present to the conference a working paper on combating desertification, expanding arable land and means of fighting industrial pollution.

Jordan Times

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The grip should be loosened

BRITAIN'S release this week of some \$110 million of some \$650 million in Iraqi funds frozen at British banks in the wake of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait could be the beginning of a process to end the seizure of Baghdad's \$4 billion worldwide. Granted that the freeing of Iraq's deposits in Britain is earmarked for the purchase of urgently required food and medicine for the battered Iraqi people. The move, however, could be symptomatic of a new era that can be expected to dawn on Iraq's relations with the international community. Even though in this instance, the value of the money freed is relatively small and linked to the purchase of British commodities, other nations which have under their control Iraqi funds can be also expected to follow in the footsteps of London and agree to the purchase of their food and medical products by such Iraqi money. After all, all countries have a stake in promoting their trade and Iraq happens to offer a great market for many industrial countries which have a grip on Iraqi assets. With the agonies and sufferings of the people of Iraq on the rise due to the prolonged U.N. sanctions against their country and receiving ever more recognition and publicity, the stage is indeed set for additional release of frozen Iraqi funds to feed and heal the wounds of the affected Iraqi people. The big powers of the world can ill afford an image that they are also causing the death and suffering of thousands of innocent Iraqis who had no say whatsoever in the entire disastrous and devastating Gulf episode that engulfed the entire Middle East region in a barbarous war situation whose effects have yet to be fully quantified. Besides, it would be hard to believe that Britain had acted unilaterally on this matter and without prior consultations with its partners in the Gulf war. This is not to mention the fact that foodstuffs and medicines were never made the subject of the U.N. Security Council punitive measures against Baghdad. There is therefore a strong case in favour of additional releases of Iraqi assets in order to help that war-torn country feed its people and provide them with essential supplies. Of course the international community cannot be expected to take the initiative in this direction unless the Arab silence on the entire issue is broken and the Arab capitals make their views on the subject clearer and louder. The Arab countries must set the tone from now on with regard to the continuing international sanctions against an Arab country that had already paid dearly for its blunders. The minute the Arab governments pronounce themselves more prudently and wisely on this situation, the better it would be for the future stability and security of the whole Gulf and Middle East regions.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDAN's decision to participate in the Madrid peace conference and in the peace process to the end was a national decision because it is a national duty to do so, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. Not only did the decision come in view of the international developments and the advent of the new world order, it also came as a national pursuit of the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions which the Arabs have been seeking for the past quarter of a century, the paper stressed. The peace conference was also sought by the Arab parties for similar reasons and for the sake of re-establishing the Palestinian people's rights, the paper continued. The daily said that opponents to the peace process would be adopting a hostile stand towards their nation, if they decide to confront such a historic decision designed to help regain the usurped Arab rights and homeland. During the Gulf crisis and when the aggression was in progress against Iraq, all the media in the West supported their countries' moves despite the fact that innocent people in Iraq were being massacred as a result of that aggression, the paper recalled. It said that not a single voice was raised in the U.S., France or Britain demanding that the war should end or that the current embargo be terminated. It is democratic to allow people to express their ideas and their thoughts, the paper said, but when the national interests could be endangered through continued opposition, such hostile stand should stop, the paper demanded. The paper said that casting doubts about the Jordanian political stand and its decision to take part in the peace conference was a form of outbidding that can by no means serve national interests.

A guest columnist in Al Dussour daily called on the Arab World to give due attention to the question of food security in the wake of the Gulf crisis during which the Arabs discovered that they are totally reliant on foreign nations for food. The Arab World imports \$35 billion worth of food stuffs annually, but its vast lands can ensure the production of all types of food required without having to buy from others, said Saleh Al Khudairi. The Arab World has been wasting a great deal of time and effort in trivial matters, on fostering divisions among Arab states and on directing attention towards unproductive schemes, the writer said. The time has come, he said for collective efforts to ensure the food required for the ever growing number of people of the Arab World. The Arab World, he said, should give priority to the production of cereals, mainly wheat, which is a strategic commodity and one which is badly needed by millions. He called on the Arab countries to remove all restrictions impeding the flow of free trade among them and to introduce measures that would encourage increased food production.

U.S. will have to push peace talks to make any progress

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Arab-Israeli peace talks, which may resume in Washington on Dec. 4, are likely to reach deadlock very quickly unless the United States intervenes to keep them alive, according to analysts and diplomats.

The fact that the parties themselves were unable to agree even on where to meet, forcing the United States to step in and propose a solution, illustrated how far apart they are.

"Without the third party — the United States — pushing, this process would not have begun and without the United States continuing to push I can't see it getting very far," said Shimon Shamir, a former Israeli ambassador to Egypt, now with the United States Institute for Peace.

"The parties on their own will reach deadlock very quickly and it could come on a whole range of issues."

The United States issued invitations on Friday for the second round of talks to be held in Washington, despite a request from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for more time to discuss the venue.

Jordan quickly accepted the invitation.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader, Bassam Abu Sharif, was quoted by Radio Jordan on Sunday as saying Palestinians had also decided to accept.

Earlier, a PLO spokesman said the organisation was not opposed to Washington as the venue for further talks but expected its shadow delegation to be accorded the same facilities and treatment it received at the first round in Madrid.

An Israeli official said on Saturday that Israel would put off responding to the invitation

pending further discussions with the United States.

Israel wanted the talks to be held in the Middle East to symbolise its growing acceptance by Arab states and because it would be easier for delegates to consult their governments.

Israeli sources said Mr. Shamir was deeply unhappy that the Bush administration decided to issue invitations in the face of Israeli opposition.

But State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said it was important to keep the momentum going by bringing the parties back together and that

Washington was not the first choice of the Arab participants either.

The three separate sets of negotiations bring Israel face-to-face with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The first breakthrough meetings were held in Madrid

three weeks ago, immediately after the historic Middle East peace conference.

U.S. officials expect the Israeli-Syrian talks to be hard going since Mr. Shamir and his government say they will not even consider withdrawing from the Golan Heights, the strategic

plateau captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

There is more hope for the Israeli-Palestinian talks since they focus only on interim arrangements to give Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip a measure of self-rule rather than settling the final status of those territories.

But even here, the talks could run aground on issues like the increasing Israeli settlements and whether to include Arab residents of East Jerusalem in the area of Palestinian autonomy.

Israel annexed East Jerusalem after capturing it from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war and Mr. Shamir said last week he regarded the city's status as non-negotiable.

The most hopeful sign for the negotiations is that the Palestinians are desperate to make progress to ease the economic and political burdens of Israeli occupation.

"The Palestinians appear willing not to force to the top of the negotiating agenda topics such as Jerusalem and settlements that may curtail negotiations prematurely," said Robert Sadoof of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Barry Rubin, a Middle East scholar with Johns Hopkins University, concurred, saying: "The Israeli-Syrian talks look like they will go nowhere. But the Israeli-Palestinian talks could go 60-80 per cent of the way."

Progress in the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations over Israel's self-declared security zone in South Lebanon is likely to hinge on the way the Israeli-Syrian talks develop.

Syria has more than 30,000 troops in Lebanon, and the Lebanese government is virtually powerless to strike an independent deal with Israel without Syrian consent.



After the iron lady, the 'new man'. But what's in it for women?

By Anne Senior
Reuter

LONDON — A year after Britain lost its first woman prime minister, the man who replaced the "iron lady" has declared himself a champion of equal rights and a scourge of male chauvinism from the factory floor to the boardroom.

Prime Minister John Major is presenting himself as the "new man" of British government — a sensitive, chivalrous male of the 1990s who is happy to work alongside women and will even help his female colleagues climb the career ladder.

But Mr. Major's apparently feminist stance has not convinced the sceptics, who say the government pays attention to women only when it needs their votes, or their labour.

It makes electoral sense for politicians to court women voters. With an election only months away, the main parties, Mr. Major's Conservatives and the opposition Labour Party, are running a close contest in opinion polls so every vote counts.

In a recent speech to launch an equal opportunities drive in business, Mr. Major rounded on men who want to preserve their "cosh" male world and vowed to set a good example to employers by ensuring women were promoted in the civil service.

But as a boss, say feminists, Mr. Major's record on equal opportunities does not look very impressive. Since Margaret Thatcher was ousted as Conservative Party leader in November last year, there has not been one woman of cabinet rank.

But Mr. Major has gone further than his predecessor in speaking up for the masses of working women, and has acknowledged that they may need some extra help to succeed in a society which for centuries was geared towards a male workforce.

"I want to see all women having the same opportunities as men. We want more women in top posts," said Mr. Major, who has vowed to usher in a new era of opportunity.

Women's rights campaigners have welcomed his support. But they say it will take more than fine words to improve the lot of the working mother, who has no choice but to combine job and family because she needs money to pay the bills. It will take



John Major



Margaret Thatcher

government money for childcare and training, they say, otherwise men will always be in charge.

Financial pressures mean women make up a higher proportion of the workforce in Britain than in any other country in the European Community except Denmark, according to a recent survey by the Equal Opportunities Commission, an independent watchdog.

But women have low-pay, low-status jobs. The pay gap between men and women is wider in Britain than in any other EC country.

"The overall profile reveals a nation where women and men still tend to do very different jobs, where having children often means earning less and being caught in a part-time trap, where women get a lower level of training than men and where... management remains a male preserve," the report said.

"Men at the top always complain there aren't enough women in middle management to promote. Perhaps there would be if these women had not had to choose between a career and a family," said Fiona Fox, spokeswoman for the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Britain has places at state-funded nurseries for only two per cent of children under three, one of the lowest levels in the EC, according to data compiled by the European Commission.

Mr. Major's free-market conservatives, their spending power constrained by a stubborn recession, say it is really up to employers to provide creche facilities and other benefits to retain their valued women workers.

But many women are hoping

the looming election, and warnings from business managers of a shortage of skilled labour by the end of the decade, will spur the government into action, perhaps in the form of tax breaks for women who pay for childcare.

The problem of juggling a family and a career is one reason for the dearth of women in Mr. Major's own field, politics, said Joanna Spear, lecturer in politics at Sheffield University.

"The way things are run is not conducive to being a wife and a mother too, so women tend to start in politics later than men and are less likely to make it up the greasy pole," she said.

The woman dipped for future stardom in Mr. Major's government, Treasury Minister Gillian Shephard, entered politics only four years ago after raising a family and working as a school inspector. She was made deputy chairman of the Conservative Party shortly after Mr. Major's speech on women.

Other women who have made it in a man's world say there are more subtle obstacles. The "male-invented" adversarial structure of Britain's political and legal systems can be a disadvantage for women who prefer a consensus approach, said Helena Kennedy, a top barrister who is an outspoken advocate of women's rights.

Men who have relied on the privileges of their sex and class — through the "old boy network" — have bad things their own way for far too long and will just have to come to terms with a more open, competitive workplace, she said.

"Sorry chaps, but this means fewer jobs for the boys."

Egyptian scholar promotes understanding of Islam in West

By Berta Gomez

WASHINGTON — One of the more important aspects of the "New World Order," says Egyptian scholar Dr. A. Kamal Aboulmagd, is that it paves the way for a positive and impartial dialogue between representatives of different cultures.

Specifically, he hopes it will allow non-Muslims to attain "a more objective and unprejudiced understanding of Islam as a religion, a culture and a way of life."

Speaking Oct. 22 at a conference marking the 40th anniversary of the United States Information Agency (USIA) publication, "Problems of Communism," Aboulmagd said he expected post-cold war concerns to centre around principles and values that are often mistakenly thought of as "Western," but that in fact are also deeply imbedded in Muslim culture.

Among Muslims "there is a growing awareness of the misrepresentation of Islam," said Dr. Aboulmagd, who teaches law at Cairo University and is a member of the international law firm of Baker and McKenzie. Dr. Aboulmagd has become part of a broad-based and growing movement which promotes awareness of what he describes as Islam's true teachings and basic principles.

As part of these efforts, Dr. Aboulmagd recently published a small booklet describing the characteristics of this "new trend." Titled "A Contemporary Islamic Outlook: Declaration of Principles," the booklet has been extremely well received, with orders coming in "from all corners of the globe," he said in an interview.

The appeal of this movement, he said, is that it offers an alternative to "official governmental Islam, which isolates Islam from life," as well as to the "angry Islam" of frustrated, zealous and anti-social youths.

This "third way," as Dr. Aboulmagd called it, promotes "an open-minded, functional approach to Islam," which acknowledges the unity of all peoples, looks to the future, is democratic, and is sensitive to the needs of vulnerable people.

In all those respects, he stressed, Islam is very much in tune with the principles and values that will serve as the foundation of the new world order, which he identified as "the sanctity and dignity of the human individual, the safeguard of his personal and civil rights, and the basic political principles of popular participation and the principle of rule of law."

The overwhelming majority of Muslim identify with those values wholeheartedly, Dr. Aboulmagd stressed. In his discussions of the need for open, unprejudiced dialogue between different societies, Dr. Aboulmagd expressed dismay over what he sees as the wholesale dismissal of Islam by many Western commentators. In a paper written for the conference, he noted that some intellectuals have spoken in recent years "about the end of history and the reaching of the final stage in historical evolution, whereby one single civilisation, that of the West, became irreversibly dominant."

Decrying this as a "terrible oversimplification," he said that such talk raises deep concerns in his part of the world, where many have asked: "In this New World Order, is there room for everybody... or is it simply going to be monopolised by the United States and Europe?"

Seeking to explain the roots of Western misunderstanding of Islam, Dr. Aboulmagd said that real disputes — such as the Arab-Israeli conflict — have played a significant role, but he also stressed that political leaders, intellectuals and the media are much to blame.

"During the last two decades, the mass media in the West played a most damaging role by portraying Islam as a primitive, rigid and inhuman culture that is both alien to the basic principles of Western civilisation and an impediment to progress and the improvement of world political conditions," he said.

He also pointed to more subtle difficulties, such as the use of the phrase "Judeo-Christian" to describe Western heritage and attitudes. "If you say 'Judeo-Christian,' you exclude the Muslims," Dr. Aboulmagd explained. "So you create gradually the image that Muslims are very different."

But he also acknowledged that "many Muslims and many Muslim movements have contributed... (to the general misunderstanding) by projecting a really terrible image of Islam."

Although he declined to single out particular groups or governments, he said that these "angry Muslims" stand out "because they are not sensitive to the dignity of man, they are not sensitive to the rights of others and not sensitive to the democratic rights of the people." Such groups are also distinguished by their literal interpretation of the Koran and their strong distaste for the principles of the pluralism. "They are

not tolerant, and they do not believe in democracy," Dr. Aboulmagd said.

He added, however, that the existence of such groups should not lead Westerners to assume that they are representative of all Muslims.

Given the revolution in mass communication, information and data processing, "I can hardly believe that one nation is excused in misunderstanding the other," Dr. Aboulmagd said. The blame goes to "the intellectuals, the information people and the policy makers, because they have all the means to find out for themselves. Information is available. An effort has to be made," he said.

Dr. Aboulmagd also pointed out that beyond matters of principle, there are many ways in which non-Muslims would benefit greatly from a greater knowledge of Islam. "The danger in a monopoly of culture is that the monopolising culture breeds a feeling of self-sufficiency, and that you have all the truth," he said. "This is not a pluralistic society."

In addition, "we non-Westerners are more aware of some of the defects" of the Western way of life. "People are missing peace. People are missing depth in human relations. People are missing warmth. People are missing continuity. There is a dislocation of family life, of generations... (which) make life very insecure," he said.

"They are basic in Western culture, but they have been neglected. People are beginning to discover the price they have paid," he added.

Similarly, Muslims could benefit from Western characteristics such as "the accentuated and sharpened belief in rationalism and science," the strong work ethic, the "dedication to truth, and the respect for the dignity of the individual."

These values are taught in Islam, but often neglected in day-to-day life, he said. "This is a generalisation, but I think it is safe to say that this is one area where we have much to learn."

On a more practical level, he said, people all over the world are beginning to understand that future problems will require increased cooperation among all regions. Increasingly, they realise that the most serious danger they face "is not the danger coming from across the border... it is the danger of disease, it is the danger of drained resources, it is the danger of pollution of the environment," he said.

"Gradually," he added, "people are discovering that they need each other." — USIA.

Biggest U.N. peacekeeping effort filled with difficulties

By Dan Biers
The Associated Press

PHNOM PENH — Slowly they're trickling into Cambodia, the bureaucrats and troops at the vanguard of the most ambitious United Nations effort ever to bring peace to a war-ravaged land.

Sometime next year, the trickle will turn into a flood, as thousands of U.N. personnel take up the herculean task of demobilising the four warring factions in Cambodia's generation-long civil war. They will try to repatriate about 500,000 refugees and displaced persons, remove countless landmines and conduct elections.

"This is big. Big in money, big in personnel," Richard Butler, the newly accredited Australian ambassador to the Supreme National Council, a reconciliation body comprising the warring factions.

The U.N. mission, he said, "double (but) with great difficulty."

An advance group of less than 300 civilians and troops began arriving earlier this month to establish the U.N. presence and lay the logistical groundwork for the United Nations Transitional

Authority in Cambodia that was set up under a peace accord signed in Paris in October.

That main U.N. peacekeeping contingent is not expected until next spring or later. Until then, the truce between the Phnom Penh government, the fanatical Khmer Rouge communists and two non-communist guerrilla groups is likely to remain tenuous.

So far, all factions have been reporting ceasefire violations, including several by the Khmer Rouge, who gained notoriety in the 1970s during a reign of terror that left hundreds of thousands dead.

Diplomatic moves are already afoot to speed up the peacekeeping operation, particularly mine removal operations that are needed before refugees can be repatriated and begin farming their land again.

Once the full U.N. Transitional Authority is in place, perhaps 5,000 or more peacekeeping troops will be deployed throughout the Cambodian jungle to observe the ceasefire, disarm the warring factions and demobilise 70 per cent of their forces, which total some 200,000 men. More than half fight for the govern-

ment. The remaining 30 per cent will be stationed in canyons and will be separated from their weapons. The new government elected in 1993 will then determine what to do with those forces.

There are concerns that the factions, which still have deep mistrust for one another, may try to hide caches of arms or fighters from the peacekeeping force. Finding work for the demobilised soldier to keep them from resorting to banditry also will be an urgent task.

Perhaps just as tricky as demobilisation will be the U.N. mandate to organise and hold elections in this impoverished nation of 8 million people.

To ensure a free and fair vote, the U.N. mission has broad authority to supervise and control five key ministries in the Phnom Penh government — defence, interior, foreign affairs, communications and finance. Theoretically, the United Nations will be able to dismiss top government officials.

Staging the elections itself will be a gargantuan task. The U.N. mission will have to conduct a

census, voter registration and actually conduct the balloting. The tentative date for the vote is early 1993.

Voter education also will be important since decades have passed since the last elections in Cambodia.

"I think it's going to be a shock," said Brian Veal, an official of an international consortium of non-governmental development agencies working in Cambodia. "I don't know how they're going to grasp the situation."

The entire U.N. operation is expected to cost more than \$1 billion, of which about 30 per cent is likely to be paid by the United States. One of the big questions is whether U.N. members actually come up with the money needed.

Since the U.N. peacekeepers are only mandated to fix roads, communications systems and other basic infrastructure needed for their mission, Cambodia will require even more international largesse to rebuild its shattered economy. Japan is expected to host a meeting next year to coordinate Cambodian reconstruction.

Pearl Harbour pilots see no need for Japan apology over attack

By Eugene Moosa
Reuter

TOKYO — Lieutenant Iyozo Fujita, a Zero fighter pilot aboard the carrier Soryu, downed half a dozen beavers before dawn broke on stormy seas north of Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941.

Half a mile away on the flight deck of the carrier Akagi, Lieutenant Jinichi Goto nervously began the first of repeated checks on his Nakajima Type 97 torpedo-bomber.

Fifty years later, the two veterans of the attack on Pearl Harbour see no need for Japan to apologise to the United States for the surprise raid that triggered the Pacific War.

Mr. Fujita, Mr. Goto and the 850 pilots and air crew aboard the six aircraft carriers, pride of the imperial fleet, were too busy to think of the morality of the mission. Most believed they would not return.

"I had heard the results of desk-top simulations of the Pearl Harbour attack," Mr. Fujita, 74, said in an interview.

"Half of the planes would be destroyed in return for half of the U.S. ships in harbour. I thought I was going to die. I needed to be — it was drunk driving that day," he said.

After the war Mr. Fujita became a commercial pilot, finally graduating to Japan Air Lines Jumbo jets. Upon retirement, he became head of the Zero Fighter Pilots' Association.

Mr. Goto, also 74, flew for the post-war Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (navy). He said neither U.S. nor Japanese military authorities thought such a daring attack could succeed.

"Only we pilots believed it would. Once it did, the United States became very angry," Mr. Goto said in another interview.

Mr. Goto, chosen for the first wave of attacks on the U.S. base, shuddered in fear as the plane in front of him took off.

"With full tanks and this 800-kilogrammes torpedo, the Type 97 dipped low after leaving the flight deck and seemed to be barely skimming the waves. It was scary leaving the ship."

Mr. Goto said all he remembers of that flight were glimpses of tropical forest on Oahu island and an immense sense of relief after his torpedo hit the battleship Oklahoma.

For Mr. Fujita it was a different story. He took off from the Soryu in the second wave and circled 6,000 metres above Pearl Harbour, searching in vain for American fighters.

"It was a strangely quiet scene... it was unreal," he said. With no enemy fighters in the air, Mr. Fujita's squadron strafed seaplanes at the U.S. Navy base in Kaneohe instead.

"My squadron leader Lieutenant Commander Fusata Iida suddenly took a hit from guns below. He hand-signalled me that he would crash his plane into the Kaneohe base. To this day I can't forget how his plane disappeared into the smoke."

The Japanese military ethos of "no surrender," of dying to serve the country, was to inspire the Kamikaze suicide pilots towards the end of the war, a bitter memory for both old men.

On the way back from Pearl Harbour, Mr. Fujita's Mitsubishi Zero suddenly came upon a flight of nine American fighters.

"This P-36 and I fired at each other as we closed head-on. At the last moment, he veered up, and I poured 7.7 mm rounds into his belly. I learned later he ditched and survived the war, but he also shot out one of my engine's 14 cylinders, and I only just made it back to the carrier."

After two waves of attacks by 375 planes from the six carriers, the Japanese navy had sunk four battleships and one heavy cruiser, and seriously damaged four other battleships and another heavy cruiser. The United States also lost 231 aircraft. The American death toll was 3,784.

Contrary to Mr. Fujita's fears, Japan lost only 29 planes and 55 crew, together with nine sailors aboard five midget submarines that failed to return from raids.

"I refuse to accept the argument that it was a dirty sneak attack," Mr. Goto said. "Japan and the United States were in a state of war after the hull note... the Americans just blamed the Japanese for their own unpreparedness."

On Nov. 26, Secretary of State Cordell Hull had notified Japan it must withdraw all troops from French Indochina — now Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia — China and the puppet state of Manchukuo in return for an end to a U.S.-British oil embargo.

Until then, talks had centred only on an Indochina pullout. Tokyo saw the Hull note as a virtual declaration of war, a view shared by many Japanese leaders today.

"It's true we fired the first shot but I must ask: 'Who made us do that?'" Mr. Fujita said.

Mr. Fujita and Mr. Goto later lost their ships at the Battle of Midway in June 1942 when U.S. carrier-borne planes sank four Japanese carriers.

At Midway, Mr. Goto had no chance even to take off before U.S. dive-bombers hit the Akagi. Mr. Fujita, in his Zero, attacked wave after wave of enemy torpedo bombers only to be shot down by "friendly fire."

'Green' labels for consumer goods spreading around world

By Catherine Arnt
Reuter

LONDON — "Green labels" awarded to consumer goods that meet environmental targets are fast gaining favour in industrialised nations.

They are a way of encouraging environmental awareness through free market forces rather than legislation.

Granted to products that measure up to a set of government-established standards, green labels are currently offered in only nine countries, led by Germany, Canada and Japan.

But labelling programmes could be in place in at least 22 countries by the end of 1992, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). On Dec. 10, European Community environment ministers are expected to approve a community-wide programme to start next year.

EC Environmental Commissioner Carlo Ripa Di Meana said the plan represents a new phase of EC policy that will emphasise market forces.

"Up to now we have taken the legislative approach" of establishing mandatory pollution limits, he said when proposing the so-called eco-label programme. "By using market forces, we will attempt to influence market realities."

"Market forces" is the favoured approach of government officials in several Western countries, led by the United States and Britain. These officials would prefer to foster voluntary environmental compliance by industry rather than impose more legislation.

Green labels are a leading strategy for the free marketers, because they tap into a rising tide of "green consumerism" and are

designed to prevent pollution before it happens. Most legislative approaches penalise a polluter rather than reward prevention efforts.

But the OECD, in a recent survey of labelling programmes around the world, warned that "their role must be viewed as a modest one as part of a broader environmental policy." It found that labelling programmes do not run smoothly and multiple trade-offs are involved.

Germany was the first country to enact a labelling programme — its "Blue and angel" scheme dates from 1978 — but sees it as a soft approach amidst some of the toughest environmental regulations in the world.

The German plan demonstrates some of the pitfalls. More than 3,600 "blue angel" labels have been awarded to products in 64 categories but over half of these fall into only four product categories — low pollutant varnishes, low-emission gas burners, stripping agents for waste water treatment and recycled paper.

Japan reported the same phenomenon of a small group of products accounting for more than half the labels, indicating that many industries largely ignore the label.

"The German experience shows that eco-labelling does not eliminate the need for other regulations, especially in regards to production and disposal," said Franz Joseph Fraundorfer, of Arthur D. Little Management Consultants.

The OECD said a rising green consumer movement in the 1990s should spur industry involvement in eco-labelling schemes for competitive reasons. Their advantage was highlighted by a nationwide Canadian survey which found that 80 per cent of those polled said they would pay as much as 10

per cent more for environmentally sound products.

Consultants say industry's record of making inflated claims of ecological soundness is a driving force behind government labelling plans.

British politicians proposed a labelling scheme, now before parliament, after the Friends of the Earth Ecology Group started giving a widely-publicised "green con" award for products that carry false or grossly exaggerated claims about their environmental friendliness.

Green claims by most producers of consumer goods are increasingly seen as just another advertising hype in Britain.

A recently survey found that seven out of 10 British consumers think companies only use the environment issue as an excuse to charge higher prices, while six in 10 are confused as to the environmental claims being made.

Most official labelling schemes have a precise set of criteria for each product category and take a "cradle-to-grave" approach — every aspect of a product's life cycle from production through disposal is considered when awarding a label.

The EC plan came under fire by environmentalists when it switched its original approach from a competition that endorsed only the best products in each category to a general set of standards which many products could meet.

Environmental groups complained that the competitive approach would have fostered innovation and provided comparative information. But EC officials said industry lobbyists had strongly condemned the original proposal as a "beauty contest" — and without industry support, labelling schemes cannot work.

Middle East documentary shows emotional problems of peace

By Jason Szep
Reuter

TORONTO — Blindfolded and shot at with rubber bullets, a Canadian filmmaker managed to capture rare footage for an award-winning documentary on life in the West Bank.

As Middle East countries search for a solution to decades of war and conflict, moviegoers can see one aspect of the problem in the film, "Deadly Currents," financed in Canada and produced by a Montreal director.

The film, which won the gold medal at the recent Nyon film festival in Switzerland, shows a generation of Palestinians and Israelis in the Israeli-occupied West Bank who have developed a numbness to decades of violence.

"For a lot of people, this is as close as they are ever going to get to being inside the conflict," said the film's director, 39-year-old Simcha Jacobovici.

Most of the Israelis and Palestinians interviewed, ranging from children to suspected terrorists, express a determination to hold on to what they consider a religious homeland despite the incessant fighting.

"When you go out in the wild West, you pack a six-shooter because it is not a safe place. This is the wild East," comments one Israeli scholar in the film.

Mr. Jacobovici said he waited four months for the chance to film members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation interrogating two Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the Israelis. The interrogators wore masks and attempted to conceal axes from the camera. One of the two suspects was later killed, but the footage ends as he is being pulled through the streets.

"From a moral point of view, what do you do when a murder is going to happen?" asked Mr. Jacobovici, referring to his filming of the interrogation.

"But I didn't know what was happening... I couldn't bring an Arabic translator," he said. He said he had been blindfolded while waiting for the interrogation, adding, "it was like something out of a thriller."

An Israeli soldier talks sullenly in the film about chasing and sometimes killing young Palesti-

nians who hurl rocks at him and other soldiers patrolling the West Bank.

"Soldiers are becoming more violent. There is nothing that can be done about that," said one soldier in the film.

"When you get orders that tell you to be violent at certain times and not violent at other times, the soldier is affected. It affects him even when he is back home. Nothing can be done about it and this is something that will scar this whole generation of Israeli youth," he said.

The soldier, a leader in his unit, is seen waking up with his troops to patrol the West Bank, then returning home to celebrate a birthday with his family, struggling off the daily violence as simply part of his duty.

Explaining how he gained the confidence of both Israelis and Palestinians, Mr. Jacobovici said, "each side feels that their minimal fears and desires are being met."

At one point, he said, rubber bullets narrowly missed him when Israeli soldiers mistook his camera for a gun.

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Seles leaves no doubt she is world number one

YORK (R) — Monica Seles' victory over Martina Navratilova in the Virginia Slims Championship provided a fitting end to an historic season which left no doubt she is the world's best woman tennis player.

Seles carved out a 6-3 3-6 7-5 6-0 win over the fourth-ranked former number one Sunday to retain her crown in the elite 16-player season finale and collect her 10th title in a phenomenal year that saw her end Steffi Graf's record run of 186 consecutive weeks at number one.

Last year there were four different Grand Slam winners — all with a legitimate claim to being the best — and two or three more players right on their heels. In 1991 Seles, with three Grand Slam titles, broke the log jam at the top.

"I think this year has been wonderful. It's nice to hold that position (number one ranking) throughout the year, but at the end (of the year) it is the most important," said Seles, winner of 74 of 80 matches in 1991.

"I think my lucky stars for how great a year I had."

Luck had little to do with it. Seles, 18 next month, is an exceptional talent.

She hits the ball with extraordinary power and has displayed a level of consistency and concentration that no 17-year-old has any right to possess.

The Yugoslav's amazing accomplishments this year include reaching 16 finals in 16 tournaments. Graf is the only other player in history to go an entire season without losing prior to the finals.

Seles also set a single season earnings record of \$2,457,758 and

that does not include her millions from endorsement contracts or exhibition events.

"She is clearly the number one for this year. In the major tournaments she was four-for-four," Navratilova said of Seles's wins at the Australian, French and U.S. Opens and this season-ending event. "And she didn't play Wimbledon so that is pretty good."

Seles created a stir with an 11th hour withdrawal from Wimbledon because of injury, incurring a fine. She also pulled out of the Federation Cup international team championship.

With no elaboration and much mystery, she went into seclusion. But when she emerged a month later, recovered from a case of shin splints, she took up where she left off.

"Looking back at the year, I wish some things never happened and I wish they will never happen again. I learned a lot from last year with my mistakes and I learned a lot from this year," she said.

The 35-year-old Navratilova, who won the title five times in 12 trips to the final, was impressed with her conqueror.

"She puts more pressure on you from the baseline than anybody I have ever played against. You can't relax for one second with her. She is very, very mentally tough," said Navratilova, one of only four players to beat Seles this year.

"Steffi as great as she is and the unbelievable forehead that she has, you get it to the backhand and you are okay for a little bit. With Monica you don't really have an opening."

"She doesn't look like a great

athlete," added Navratilova. "She doesn't look like she is going to get there, but the next thing you know the ball is going by you."

Of course Navratilova, who remains one title away from breaking the record total of 157 she shares with Chris Evert, knows better than anyone that the feeling of invincibility is fleeting, no matter how dominant you may be.

"You know in my time I was going to reign forever, then Steffi was going to be there forever," she said. "Here comes Monica now, but it's hard to keep it up."

Last year at this time, Seles said she had to work on cutting down early-round eliminations. Now that she has done that with greater success than even she would have dared hope for, what is left for 1992?

"I am just going to try to do it better next year," Navratilova will have to wait until next year to claim a record-breaking 158th career title.

"I played my best tennis. She just played better, so well done," said Navratilova, who picked up \$120,000 for her considerable efforts.

"I don't have any right to be out here at my age, but I'm still having a blast and I'm thrilled to be able to still compete with the top players in the world."

The first three sets were a true pleasure, she said to a thundering ovation from the crowd of more than 18,000 at Madison Square Garden.

The contest provided a classic match-up of the ageing, dominant player of the last decade against a sensational player half her age and the apparent player of the



Monica Seles

1990s — a serve and volleyer against a baseline basher.

Seles, who won this event last year in a five-set epic against Gabriela Sabatini, whom she destroyed in this year's semifinals, said: "It wasn't easy but it was pretty easy to finish it off."

"Luckily this year it didn't go to a fifth set because I don't think I could have taken it, I'm so tired."

Navratilova, who used to overpower her opponents eight or 10 years ago, had to rely on her wits and finesse against the Yugoslav's raw power.

Time and again the crafty veteran played the angles or set up soft touch volleys to keep the pressure on Seles.

But Navratilova, the only player to take a set this week from the top-ranked teen, would have to have played flawless tennis to prevail as Seles took advantage of every opening by the fourth

set.

"She didn't give me too many second serves today, but whenever I needed my serve it was there," said Seles.

Hamed Al Saeed wins squash championship

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Hamed Al Saeed Monday scored a convincing 3-0 (9-0, 9-7, 9-3) win over Iyad Kamal to win the Jordan Squash Open Championship.

On Sunday Yazeed Adas beat Mahab Marar 3-0 (9-3, 9-1, 9-3) in the match determining third and fourth places.

Forty-eight players competed in the championship held at the squash courts at Al Hussein Youth City and organised by the Jordan Squash Federation (JSF) on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

The championship was exciting and competitive as Jordan's top players participated. The 1984 Arab squash champion winner Hamed Al Saeed, the runner-up Iyad Kamal, Jordan's 1991 champion Yazeed Adas and the under-19 champion Mahab Marar all participated in the championship.

"The competition was very good, and the return of experienced players such as Hamed Al Saeed and Iyad Kamal (after an absence of several months) gave much impetus to the competition and the game in general," national team coach Abdul Raouf Sa'ad told the Jordan Times.

The top four players had easily reached the final stages of the championship after a week of competition.

Kamal reached the final after defeating Adas 3-1 in the semifinals; Omar Kamal 3-0 in the quarterfinals; and Sameer Murqus 3-0 in the round of 16.

Saeed reached the final after defeating Mahab Marar 3-0 in the semifinals; Abdul Nasser Kalifeh 3-0 in the quarterfinals; and Haiman Hawasbeen 3-0 in the round of 16.

Adas reached the semifinals by defeating Yasar Soufan 3-1 in the quarterfinals; and Qutaiba Taha 3-0 in the round of 16. Marar reached the semifinals by beating Nasouh Al Nabulsi 3-0 in the quarterfinals and Mohammad Al Saeed 3-2 in the round of 16.

"The competition between Hamed, Iyad and Yazeed was very close," said coach Sa'ad, adding that it was "very encouraging to see a large number of fans attending the tournament to cheer their favourites."

The Jordan Squash Federation (JSF) plans to regroup the national team as soon as possible in preparation for the World Championships due to be held in Hong Kong in Aug. 1992.

In the mean time the JSF will organise local competitions in January and March and hopes to regroup the women's national team, coach Sa'ad added.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can be far more direct than usual in letting others know exactly what you have in mind, where property or any intellectual conditions are concerned. Listen carefully to the response.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) In any discussion between you and one in power make sure you are tactful and diplomatic and you don't upset any applicant by your demands.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have some new ideas that can bring you closer to your aims and ambitions but it is necessary you do not neglect some other duty for these progressive plans.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now have some interest in getting a friend to go along some steady plan of importance so forget that impersonal ventures for a good job aid.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You now have the urge to strike out at a partner but instead focus your attention upon an executive and get him to go along with your aims.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have a considerable amount of work to do but you are also being tested about your ability to be alert and one the beam where some better way to exist is concerned.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You need only to find the right solution to a partnership or association matter now to have a better

awareness how you can get ahead much faster.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You find that one of your intimates is pretty upset and disturbed but it won't hinder your progress if you give understanding and then go about your own business.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is your time to really get together and talk out any differences of opinion early which you can show your interest in that recreation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever brings you more income and revenue is all right but at the same time be sure you do not lose sight of what you want personally.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you have it in your power to get that you personally want if you keep to yourself and work on your own bag and expand intimate desires.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you spend so much time looking for problems and trying to get rid of some disappointing condition you can miss out where it means a great deal to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good loyal older and serious minded friend is the answer to your present problem for he is willing to go along with that cherished desire that means so much to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"You're mad at me. Was it something I said, or something Oprah said?"

Sampdoria coach's future hangs in balance

By Renter

COACH Vujadin Boskov's future at Italian soccer champions Sampdoria, who lost their sixth league match out of 11 Sunday, may now depend on a good European Cup run.

Boskov was defiant in defeat as he geared up for Sampdoria's European Cup semifinal group match with Yugoslavia's Red Star Belgrade, the holders, in Genoa Wednesday.

"I won't lose my job and we'll make it in Europe," Boskov was quoted as saying in a banner headline in the Rome newspaper Il Messaggero Monday.

Sampdoria, who crashed 2-0 to Rome at the Olympic Stadium, are sixth from bottom after picking up eight points in 11 games.

"Roma knock Samp into the relegation zone," said a headline in the Milan sports daily Gazzetta Dello Sport.

The Italian press suggested Sampdoria President Paolo Mantovani might be about to sack Boskov and replace him with former Italian national coach Azzeglio Vicini or Swede Nils Liedholm, former boss at AC Milan and Roma.

Boskov played down the speculation.

"I don't understand why if one player makes a mistake, it should then be the coach who has to pay for it," Boskov said, apparently referring to errors by Italy goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca which led to both Roma goals.

Red Star's predecessors as champions of Europe, unbeaten Italian League leaders AC Milan, strolled to a 3-1 home win against

Cremonese that kept them two points clear of Juventus.

Milan's Dutch trio have played a major part in the team's surge to the top but they refuse to take all the praise.

"Let's not joke. Three Dutchmen play for Milan, but what about the others?" Marco Van Basten, joint leading goalscorer with Francesco Baiano of Foggia on seven goals, said.

"One player on his own or indeed three players on their own have never won anything," Ruud Gullit, who like Van Basten scored against Cremonese, was even more emphatic.

European soccer

"How can a side like Milan, which bases its whole game on collective force, depend on the form of just three players?" he said.

Six times European Cup winners Real Madrid continued their fine start to the Spanish season with a 2-0 win against bottom-placed Real Mallorca, their 10th in 11 matches.

If Real beat Barcelona club Espanol next weekend, they will improve their 23-year-old record of 22 points in 12 games.

Real, who face Swiss club Neuchatel Xamax in the UEFA Cup Wednesday, increased their lead to four points over city rivals Atletico, who could manage no better than a 1-1 draw in Cadiz.

Marseille, who lost the European Cup final to Red Star in May, moved closer to another French league title with a 2-1 win

at Cannes Sunday and are four points in front halfway through the first division programme.

"What counts is not only the result but the way we achieved it," said Marseille marksman Jean-Pierre Papin.

"We had fun just like we used to last year and we proved that we were still alive."

Marseille seem to have got over their shock elimination from the European Cup by Sparta Prague earlier this month. "It was a bitter disappointment but life goes on," Papin said.

Eintracht Frankfurt's huge, cigar-smoking Yugoslav coach Dragoslav Stepanovic has stepped out of the shadows to play the surprise leading role in the German first division at the halfway point.

The 43-year-old former Red Star Belgrade star has inspired Eintracht, who last won the championship in 1959 and were runners up in the 1960 European Cup final, to the top spot in the Bundesliga after 19 games.

The unofficial autumn champions normally get a psychological boost with 20 of the clubs who have led at the halfway stage in

the past 28 years going on to win the title.

Stepanovic said: "I didn't even know that. But if that's the case, I've got nothing against it, of course. But there's a long way to go to the championship."

Leeds United, beaten European Cup finalists in 1975, took back the lead in the English first division from Manchester United with an emphatic 4-1 win at Aston Villa Sunday.

Two headed goals by international striker Wim Kieft kept champions PSV Eindhoven two points clear of Feyenoord Rotterdam in the Dutch first division when they won 2-0 away against lowly De Graafschap Sunday.

Kieft's first goal came just two minutes before half-time. Midway through the second half his blond head struck again from a cross by Zambian international Kalusha Bwalya.

Third place Ajax Amsterdam, badly hit by suspensions, dropped a point in a goalless draw away to FC Twente, a match so dull the Dutch radio commentator said he would rather be playing backgammon.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



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هكذا من الجمل

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HUSCH ©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

DUPLICATE TACTICS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 4 3
♥ 6 2
♦ A K Q 8 5 2
♣ 5 3

EAST
♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ Q 10 4
♦ J 10 7 4
♣ 9

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 9
♥ A K 8
♦ 8 3
♣ A K 7 4

The bidding:
South 1 NT West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♣
There's a world of difference between the play of the hand at rubber bridge and duplicate. But tactical considerations at the latter form of the game could change one's normal technique. This hand is an interesting example.

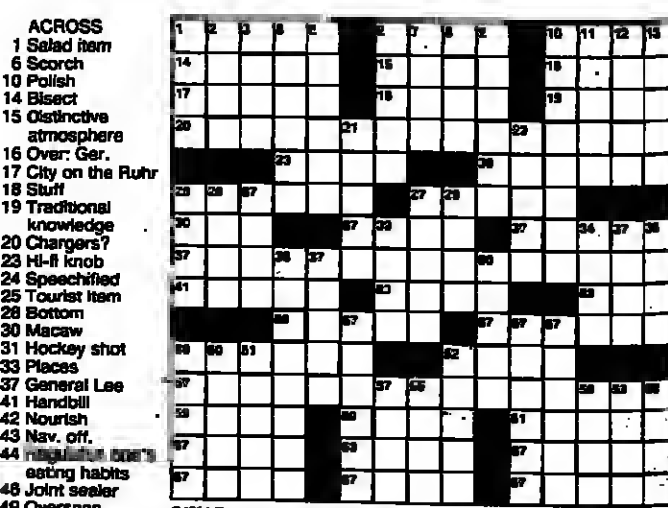
The bidding is routine. North has no reason to suppose that there's a slam in the cards or, for that matter, to prefer an 11-trick minor-suit contract to three no trump.
A rubber-bridge veteran would make short shrift of this hand. Since only five diamond tricks are needed

to make the game, an experienced money player would win the first trick, duck a diamond to protect against a 4-1 break in that suit, and then feel pleased when, in running the suit, it turns out that the precaution was indeed necessary.

A duplicate devotee should know the chances of a 3-2 diamond break are almost 68 percent. Therefore, it would be folly to take the safety play of ducking the diamond. Correct technique is to hope the suit will run and so score an overtrick. As the cards lie, that would result in a one-trick set. When East shows out on the second diamond, declarer should switch to spades to set up two tricks there.

Now let's suppose this hand were to turn up near the end of a pair game where you judge you need a few good scores to finish in the money. How would you tackle the hand? You know the majority of the field will try to run the diamonds, so that if you were to do the same, the best you could hope for would be about an average score. You need better than that, so you must hope the suit will break badly. Take the safety play. Your reward for doing so will be to earn a top board on those few occasions when diamonds are 4-1 and you outscore the rest of the field.

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Underwater predator	11 Underwater predator	21 Grind the teeth	31 Underwater predator	41 Underwater predator	51 Underwater predator
2 Underwater predator	12 Underwater predator	22 Grind the teeth	32 Underwater predator	42 Underwater predator	52 Underwater predator
3 Underwater predator	13 Underwater predator	23 Grind the teeth	33 Underwater predator	43 Underwater predator	53 Underwater predator
4 Underwater predator	14 Underwater predator	24 Grind the teeth	34 Underwater predator	44 Underwater predator	54 Underwater predator
5 Underwater predator	15 Underwater predator	25 Grind the teeth	35 Underwater predator	45 Underwater predator	55 Underwater predator
6 Underwater predator	16 Underwater predator	26 Grind the teeth	36 Underwater predator	46 Underwater predator	56 Underwater predator
7 Underwater predator	17 Underwater predator	27 Grind the teeth	37 Underwater predator	47 Underwater predator	57 Underwater predator
8 Underwater predator	18 Underwater predator	28 Grind the teeth	38 Underwater predator	48 Underwater predator	58 Underwater predator
9 Underwater predator	19 Underwater predator	29 Grind the teeth	39 Underwater predator	49 Underwater predator	59 Underwater predator
10 Underwater predator	20 Underwater predator	30 Grind the teeth	40 Underwater predator	50 Underwater predator	60 Underwater predator

Financial Markets

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European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Baricurrency Interest Rates Date: 25/11/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.68	4.67	4.67	5.00
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.56	10.56	10.56
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.37	9.37	9.37
Swiss Franc	7.87	8.13	8.00	7.87
French Franc	9.61	9.75	9.68	9.56
Japanese Yen	6.21	6.09	5.90	5.82
European Currency Unit	10.12	10.12	10.12	9.87

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Prices Metals Date: 25/11/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	368.75	7.00	Silver	4.15	0.090

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 25/11/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6780	0.6800
Sterling Pound	1.2169	1.2230
Deutsche Mark	0.4260	0.4301
Swiss Franc	0.4815	0.4839
French Franc	0.1252	0.1258
Japanese Yen	0.5255	0.5261
Dutch Guilder	0.3798	0.3817
Swedish Krona	0.1169	0.1175
Italian Lira	0.0565	0.0568
Belgian Franc	0.02073	0.02083

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 25/11/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7690	1.7770
Lebanese Lira	0.0771	0.0775
Saudi Riyal	0.1805	0.1815
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatar Riyal	0.1837	0.1846
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2170
Omani Riyal	1.7350	1.7440
UAE Dirham	0.1837	0.1846
Greek Drachma	0.3756	0.3856
Cypriot Pound	1.4960	1.505*

* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	24/11/1991 Close	23/11/1991 Close
All-Share	125.00	124.81
Banking Sector	105.36	104.93
Insurance Sector	126.44	126.56
Industry Sector	154.03	154.02
Services Sector	138.47	139.47

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading-world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7977/87	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1386/91	Canadian dollar
	1.5795/5805	Deutsche marks
	1.7800/10	Dutch guilders
	1.4045/52	Swiss francs
	32.53/57	Belgian francs
	5.4000/50	French francs
	1195/1196	Italian lire
	127.75/85	Japanese yen
	5.8000/50	Swedish crowns
	6.2400/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.1575/25	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	368.40/368.90	U.S. dollars

Profits of big four brokerages in Japan plunge

TOKYO (R) — Japan's big four brokerages, battered by a series of scandals and a stagnant stock market, said their profits plunged in the six months ended Sept. 30 and the rest of the year looked equally grim. They said current profits were expected to drop some 40 to 70 per cent in the year to March 31, 1992.

Yamaichi Securities said it suffered a parent current loss of 5.42 billion yen (\$41.3 million) in the six-month period ending Sept. 30, its first loss in 28 years. Nomura Securities, the biggest of the four, said its interim current profit slumped 64 per cent to 39.76 billion yen (\$303 million), down from 111.79 billion (\$853 million) in the same period of the previous year.

Daiwa Securities' current profit dropped about 70 per cent to 20.62 billion yen (\$157 million) in the first half from 69.21 billion yen (\$528 million) in the same period the previous year. Nikko Securities said its interim parent current profit dropped to 12.05 billion yen (\$91.9 million), down from 33.63 billion yen (\$256 million) the previous year.

The image of all four brokerages has been tainted, and their income slashed, as a result of scandals involving improper compensation for losses by favoured clients. Nomura was also hard-hit by revelations it broke the law with an excessive sales campaign for shares of a company in which a gangster had a stake.

Moscow examines new ways to collect Soviet rouble debts

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, facing pressure from Western creditors, is looking at new ways to get back rouble debts owed to it by former communist allies and Third World states, Interfax agency has said.

The independent agency, quoting top economic official Arkady Volsky, said the debts owed to Moscow could be worth — only on paper — up to \$104 billion. At the official rate of exchange, a rouble is worth 58 cents but the tourist rate is now two cents and the black market rate around one cent, making it almost impossible to calculate an overall dollar figure for what Moscow is owed in soft currency.

Mr. Volsky, deputy chairman of the interim committee now running what is left of the Soviet government, gave Interfax a breakdown of the 91.64 billion roubles outstanding from past loans granted by Moscow to other countries. Of this, 46.273 billion roubles — just over half — is owed by former socialist countries, a category including six east European countries, and communist allies such as Vietnam, Cuba and Mongolia.

The other half is owed by developing countries such as India which have traditionally traded with Moscow on a clearing basis and were granted foreign aid loans in roubles to build large turnkey projects such as power stations and steel mills.

Interfax said Cuba topped the list of debtors with 16.7 billion roubles of debt, followed by Mongolia with 10.3 billion and Vietnam with 10 billion. It listed these three countries as defaulters, along with Ethiopia, Angola, Yemen, Nicaragua, Mozambique, Guinea, Mali, Sudan, Madagascar and others. All of these have asked Moscow to reschedule their debts or write them off.

Interfax said Moscow was negotiating with Poland to balance out Warsaw's outstanding debts against Soviet debts to Poland. Other alternatives under consideration included selling debts on secondary markets in the West. Mr. Volsky said this could bring Moscow \$45 billion, but Interfax quoted experts from Vneshekonombank, the Soviet foreign trade bank, as doubting whether this would be feasible. Most of the Soviet loans were granted on non-commercial terms, with very low rates of interest and long repayment periods. Of the outstanding 91.64 billion roubles, 87.23 billion is principal and the small remainder is interest.

A second option would be for debtor countries to repay Moscow by exporting goods, or by paying in local currency which could be used by Moscow either to meet its local embassy expenses or to invest in the local economy. Interfax said Moscow had successfully used the mediation of a Swiss company, ITF, to negotiate an agreement of this type with Mozambique.

It said a similar agreement was possible with Algeria but both Vietnam and Mongolia had reacted coolly to the idea of exchanging Soviet debt for equity. Interfax said countries which were up to date on their payments to Moscow included India, Egypt, Syria, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Morocco and Ghana. It said that until recently Iraq had also made its payments on time.

Egypt to export fixed quota of cotton despite needs of local market

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — Egypt, fighting its way back into world cotton markets, is determined to export a fixed quota of its crop even if its own manufacturers got short, the head of the state cotton monopoly said.

"We will store anything from the export quota we cannot sell immediately," Ahmed Shouman, chairman of the monopoly state holding company, told Reuters in a recent interview.

"We must push out the United States, which we consider our main competitor," he pointed out.

Once a leading world supplier, Egypt's exports have fallen drastically in recent years as production has decreased and local state-nurtured textiles industries have gobbled up ever-increasing amounts of high quality cotton at subsidised prices.

Last year, exports hit a record low of 45,000 bales. Mr. Shouman said sales to Japan dropped to 16,000 bales from 100,000 five years earlier. Sales to Italy crashed to just 1,000 bales from 60,000 over the same period.

In response, Egypt announced it would allocate 155,000 bales from this year's harvest for export regardless of the size of the harvest or of any complaints from local textile industries.

So far, Mr. Shouman said Egypt had contracted to sell about 62,000 bales. Another 47,000 bales could be sold to the Soviet Union if problems with a trade protocol could be solved.

But he said any slack would be kept for export. "We must have strategic stocks," Mr. Shouman said. "We must be able to supply at any time."

Cotton is a key industry in Egypt, employing more than 650,000 people and supporting a textile industry that accounts for about a quarter of total manufacturing output.

Mr. Shouman said private companies would be allowed to compete with state firms next year to buy cotton from farmers and export it. There were 65 cotton trading companies at nationalisation in 1961 but there are only six now.

"There should be complete competition within three to five years," Mr. Shouman said. "We're going back to how it was before nationalisation."

Exports have also suffered in recent years because the government set uncompetitive prices and announced them too late in the year.

Nearly half of last year's contracted exports were not shipped because traditional eastern European clients, struggling to shift from central planning to market economics, are suffering foreign exchange problems.

Mr. Shouman said the asking price for Egypt's long-staple brand, announced in September this year, dropped from 200 centibales (U.S. cents for pound weight) to 120 to match American prices.

Farmers in Nile Delta villages, now being paid 275 Egyptian pounds per qantar (equivalent to 83 centibales) for long-staple cotton, over 40 per cent more than two years ago, say yields are slightly up.

Agriculture officials have estimated the harvest at 890,000 bales, which after the export allocation will leave local textiles manufacturers, many of them already in financial difficulties, needing to import 80,000 bales at market rates.

Last year's harvest was also 890,000 bales but farmers have defied government orders in recent years and steadily cut the area they plant cotton on, then claiming yields have dropped.

Mr. Shouman said cotton authorities would stick to the export-oriented policy, despite the current world glut and political pressure from the state textiles sector.

"It was very wasteful before," he said. "We would supply them (local textiles manufacturers) with high-quality raw cotton to produce mediocre finished goods."

He added that Japan, a major customer, could buy up more stock in new purchasing round in mid-January.

Mr. Shouman, who has worked in the sector since 1953, described the era of nationalisation and sequestration of private property pursued under late President Gamal Abdul Nasser as "a stage we had to pass through."

Protests sweep Bangladesh over pay and privatisation

DHAKA (R) — Workers protesting at privatisation plans and seeking pay rises blocked roads and railways across Bangladesh Monday, stranding millions of people and shutting dozens of industries.

Hundreds of thousands of jute and textile mill workers tore up railway track and barricaded roads after the 48-hour protest began at sunrise, police and witnesses said.

Workers blocked all major towns, ports and industrial zones, stopping lorries and buses by building barricades, attacking drivers and stoning the vehicles. The protesters, mostly from state-owned jute and textile

plants, were joined by some private sector employees also seeking rises.

They ripped up about one kilometre of track in Dhaka's northern suburbs, removed rail fishplates at other points and dug up a highway, halting road traffic to the south and southeast.

"We are trying to convince them to call off the blockade but cannot use force because that might cause violence to flare up," a police officer at Chittagong port told reporters. "We have to keep our fingers crossed."

Union leaders called the blockade to denounce plans by the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to privatise their industries. They also want rises and other benefits.

"We shall go for an indefinite blockade and industrial stoppage unless the government pays proper attention to our grievances and demands," union leader Shah Alam told reporters after talks with the government broke down Sunday night.

Officials in Khulna, a southern industrial town, said most road transport and trains were halted there and all major industries were closed.

Witnesses said police used tear gas and batons when clearing a roadblock at Postagola on the outskirts of the capital.

Supporters of Mrs. Khaleda Zia described the blockade as sabotage by followers of deposed president Hossein Mohammad Ershad, serving a 10-year jail term for keeping illegal firearms. He faces several other criminal charges.

The eight-month-old government Sunday accused "some quarters" of trying to create a state of anarchy.

"The government wants to inform all concerned that... it will not tolerate any impediment to materialising the hopes and aspirations of the people and will not succumb to any unjust pressure," it said in a statement, pledging to set up a wage commission next month.

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- ★ Fluent in spoken and written English.
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- ★ Good knowledge in computer word-processing. (Knowledge of Database Lotus is an advantage).
- ★ Familiar with large companies filing system.
- ★ Must have 3 to 5 years experience in similar position.

Applicant should send their C.V. to P.O.Box 925916 Amman, indicating anticipated salary and telephone No. for interview purposes.

ANNOUNCE:

The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) is implementing jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture a forestry seed centre. For this purpose a cool storage room is required. Companies with experience in installing cool storage rooms or similar facilities could provide their offers until the 10th of December to the GTZ administration office. The necessary documents to prepare the offer could be collected at:

GTZ Administration Office
Mrs. E. Kasir
Aljouni Str. Shmelsani
P.O.Box 928238, Amman-Jordan
Tel: 667021 / 660080
Code: Forestry Seed Centre, Cool Storage

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For interview please call 692620/1

CANADA

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You can become a Canadian citizen and still retain your Jordanian nationality. Use this immigration to expand your business. Canadian immigration lawyer **Ms. Lucie David** will be in Amman from Saturday Nov. 30 to Thursday Dec. 6 to guarantee entrepreneurs and investors an immigration visa to Canada. You need not invest a single penny before your residency there is finalised.

Ms. David will be at the Marriott Hotel, tel.: 660100. For more information, please call Al Hayat Group at 687956/7.

INDUSTRIAL COORDINATOR

Energetic engineer (BSc or better, preferably in Industrial Engineering (IE) needed to market IE services to industry, prepare and market IE seminars, identify opportunities for projects in industry for faculty and staff, assist with student placements, and prepare a database to track careers of IE graduates. Requires 3-5 years experience in industry, fluent spoken and written English and Arabic, thorough knowledge of data base management. Short-term consulting contract through August 1992, possibly longer.

Send resume with fee requirements by Dec. 1 to:
Professor A. Walvekar
IRD/Macro International Inc.
c/o IE Dept. Fac. of Engineering & Technology
University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan
Telephone 843555 Ext. 2834

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7 Soviet republics meet to initial new union treaty

MOSCOW (R) — Representatives of seven of the 12 Soviet republics opened a meeting Monday to initial a treaty turning the Soviet Union into a loose confederation of sovereign states.

But the absence of the Ukraine leaves the political future of the country in as much doubt as ever and represents a major blow to president Mikhail Gorbachev's plans to restructure the Soviet Union in the wake of August's failed hardline coup.

The Ukraine, the second most powerful republic, is one of the 10 republics to have declared independence since the coup attempt.

Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk, who says it would be impossible to retain a centralised union with a government, Saturday repeated his republic's determination not to join the new confederation.

Mr. Gorbachev, who has insisted he could not imagine a new Soviet confederation without the Ukraine, warned Sunday against the republic leaving the union.

Soviet News Agency (TASS) quoted the Soviet leader as saying such a move would be "a great misfortune for us and a disaster for the Ukraine."

Mr. Gorbachev, who has seen much of his power and authority pass to Russian leader Boris Yeltsin since the attempted coup, said the break-up of the Soviet Union would be a disaster.

TASS said leaders of seven republics had started a meeting in the suburban villa of Novogaryovo to discuss the treaty.

It named the seven as Russia, Kazakhstan, Byelorussia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. Those not attending were the Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

The treaty will have to be ratified in the participating republics' parliaments before it comes into force.

TASS quoted Mr. Gorbachev as telling the meeting that Azerbaijan leader Ayaz Muttalibov had cancelled plans to attend because of "the extremely complicated situation" in the trans-Caucasian Republic.

Azerbaijan and neighbouring Armenia, already at odds over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, are involved in an increasingly bitter war of words over the crash of an unarmed helicopter in the enclave last week.

Azerbaijan, which says the craft was shot down, is due to hold an emergency parliamentary session Tuesday to discuss cutting links with Armenia and imposing military rule in the enclave, scene of a long-running guerrilla war between Armenian and Azeri gunmen.

Armenia says the agenda for the session is in effect a declaration of war.

Soviet television said Monday that Azerbaijan armed groups were reported to have virtually sealed off Nagorno-Karabakh and had been shelling Stepanakert, the capital, over the past 24 hours.

Mr. Gorbachev had hoped that an economic agreement signed by nine republics last month preserving vital ties would be followed by a political deal.

But this idea has been resisted by many of the republics, wary of creating any kind of centralised system.

Mr. Kravchuk, facing a Dec. 1 poll for Ukrainian president, said last week there was no longer a need for a full central government.

He said any hope of creating some kind of a central state had been ruined by the coup attempt and that his republic could accept only a loose alliance similar to the European Community.

The new treaty, few details of which have been released, reflects the new-found strength of the republics.

An earlier version, which gave republics more limited freedom while ensuring that executive power remained in the centre, was due to be signed in August. It was discarded after the coup failed.

The treaty says the country will be renamed the Union of Sovereign States and makes provisions for nationwide elections for union president.

Mr. Gorbachev said last week he was prepared not to stand for the office of president if that would help forge a new union of sovereign republics.

He said the nationwide elections might be held no earlier than the middle of next year.

Meanwhile, ethnic conflict throughout Soviet trans-Caucasia provoked fresh protests in Azerbaijan's capital Baku Sunday and killed at least two people near a disputed area in Georgia, news reports from the region said.

Russian television said thousands of Azeris, accusing Armenian fighters of shooting down an unarmed helicopter, packed Baku's central square to demand tougher measures from the government and the creation of a "self-defence force."

The protesters, who also called for the resignation of the republic's President Ayaz Muttalibov, have been massing since the helicopter crashed last Wednesday in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, killing 20 people.

Armenian officials accuse the Azeris of using the crash to inflame passions in the conflict over the region, which since 1988 has killed more than 800 people in both republics.

The dispute has defied all attempts at mediation, including a mission last September led by Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin which committed both sides to a ceasefire and talks.

On Tuesday Azerbaijan's parliament is to debate the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh — populated mainly by Armenians but under Azerbaijani control since 1993.

The parliament is likely to proclaim emergency rule, giving the authorities a freer hand in running the area.



Lech Walesa

Walesa opens first session of parliament

WARSAW (R) — President Lech Walesa, opening Poland's first democratic parliament in 52 years, appealed to the country's political parties Monday to hurry their differences.

"Let us forget about our quarrels," Mr. Walesa told 460 deputies in the Sejm (lower house) during the inaugural session.

"Let us remember that your standing stubbornly by your parties' options can divide us and divide the nation."

The 29 parties represented in parliament are bitterly divided over Poland's political and economic programmes.

Before inviting Mr. Walesa to make the opening speech, the oldest deputy, Aleksander Malachowski, knocked three times with a traditional two-metre staff of authority.

"We waited for more than half a century," Mr. Walesa said. "The president elected in free elections opens the first meeting of the freely elected parliament."

"We have achieved what generations of Poles have been fighting for... we have a free Poland."

Four weeks after elections the Sejm shows little hope of creating a stable government as no clear majority coalition has emerged so far.

Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki was expected to resign during the session but his government will stay on as caretaker until a new cabinet is elected.

Mr. Walesa appealed to Mr. Bielecki Friday to stay in office, but the prime minister reiterated his intention to step down.

The Sejm has three months to form a government before Mr. Walesa is empowered to dissolve the chamber and call new elections.

Under the constitution, the president nominates a prime minister who has to be approved by the Sejm before he can form a cabinet.

France wants U.N. peace force in Yugoslavia now

PARIS (R) — France said Monday the United Nations should send a peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia as soon as possible despite the breakdown of the latest ceasefire between Croatian forces and the Serbian-led federal army.

"France believes that, given the dramatic character of the situation on the ground, the Security Council should meet urgently to decide to send a United Nations force to Yugoslavia as soon as possible," Foreign Minister spokesman Maurice Gourdault-Montagne told reporters.

France is one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The latest ceasefire, brokered by the U.N. and the European Community, came into effect at 6 p.m. (1700 GMT) Sunday but was broken within half an hour.

Despite shelling on Osijek in eastern Croatia Monday most of the rebel republic's war zones were reported calm.

Under the ceasefire plan signed in Geneva Saturday, U.N. peacekeepers can be deployed in Yugoslavia once fighting in Croatia stops.

U.N. special envoy Cyrus Vance said Sunday a force could go in within a week if guns remained silent.

"We have made it clear that without a lasting and effective ceasefire there could not, in my view, be a United Nations peacekeeping operation," the former U.S. Secretary of State said.

France and Germany originally proposed sending a European peacekeeping force but were overruled by their EC partners.

Meanwhile, most of the rebel republic's war zones were calm in the early hours of the 14th attempt at a ceasefire in the Yugoslav conflict.

Croatian radio said Osijek and surrounding villages, which have been under attack by the Serbian-led federal army and Serbian guerrillas, were hit but the bombardment was not intense. There were no reports of casualties.

Tanjung News Agency said the night had been calm after the ceasefire agreed by the army and the presidents of Croatia and Serbia took effect at 6 p.m. (1700 GMT) Sunday.

The latest ceasefire was arranged by United Nations and European Community (EC) mediators after the army turned its attention to the Osijek region after capturing the town of Vukovar at the end of a three-month siege.

Tanjung said Sunday that Serbian guerrillas claimed to have captured the village of Laslovo, just south of Osijek, and inflicted heavy losses on its Croat defenders.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman accused the Yugoslav army of launching a new offensive in Croatia to capture territory before the proposed deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces.

In a tough televised speech in the Croatian capital Zagreb, he said that the war in the breakaway Yugoslav republic had entered its final, dramatic phase.

"Before peacekeeping forces are sent, the Yugo-Serbian aggressor is trying to round out its territorial conquests up to the intended line of the borders of a greater Serbia," Mr. Tudjman said.

Thousands of people have been killed in the war triggered by Croatia's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia last June.

The republic's independence drive sparked a rebellion by its 600,000-strong Serbian minority, which still bears the scars of World War II massacres alleged to have been committed by Croatian fascists.

Serbia and Croatia both say they want U.N. intervention after more than four months of fighting but disagree about where the international force should be deployed.

German woman scientist disappears in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — A German woman scientist has disappeared while travelling in northern Pakistan disguised as a man, a German embassy spokesman said Monday.

Dr. Ingrid Reuder left Peshawar on Sept. 29 for the northern town of Gilgit from where she was expected to visit Skardu on a geological field trip. She never returned to Peshawar where she was scheduled to deliver a lecture at an international seminar on Oct. 12. Her disappearance has only just been disclosed.

"We are working to know whether she has been kidnapped or met some accident or was killed," the deputy commissioner of Gilgit said by telephone.

Foreign women are usually discouraged from travelling alone in the mountains of northern Pakistan. The embassy spokesman said Dr. Reuder's colleagues, who travelled with her to Peshawar, said she had been wearing men's clothes and pretending to be a Mr. Ingo when she left for Gilgit. It is not clear whether she made it to Skardu or disappeared from Gilgit, he said.

Dr. Reuder, who works at France's Dolomieu National Institute of Scientific Research at Grenoble in the French Alps, had visited Pakistan before.

8 die in renewed S. African mine clashes

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Eight employees were killed and 10 wounded in renewed fighting Monday at South Africa's President Steyn Gold Mine near Welkom, where 76 people died in clashes earlier this month.

The deaths, reported by the South African Press Association, pushed the death toll from political violence in South Africa since Friday to at least 22.

The mine, in Orange Free State province, is owned by the country's biggest conglomerate, Anglo American Corp of South Africa.

Anglo American blamed the first round of fighting at the mine, between Xhosa and Sotho tribal factions on Nov. 3, on men trying to force colleagues to observe a two-day general strike due to begin the next day.

Dumas arrives in Hanoi

HANOI (R) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived Monday for a visit which Vietnam hopes will bring more aid and business now that Hanoi is seen as a key contributor to peace in Cambodia.

The 120 people, including 24 business executives, who accompanied Mr. Dumas represented the biggest French delegation to visit Communist Hanoi, diplomats said.

Mr. Dumas first met Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam at the government guest house, a graceful building that used to house the French governor-general of Tonkin when France ruled Indochina.

Mr. Cam told Reuters just before Mr. Dumas arrived that the visit would help Vietnam break out of its international isolation.

Indonesia denies fresh killings; Amnesty urges probe

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia Monday denied reports of fresh massacres in East Timor but Amnesty International said in Sydney they were credible and urged a United Nations investigation.

"There is no truth in the reports," a military spokesman said.

Indonesia has been accused of three separate massacres since its troops opened fire on mourners at a cemetery in the former Portuguese colony on Nov. 12, killing 19 people by official accounts.

Amnesty, the human rights group, said Monday it had the names of 60 people either killed on Nov. 12 or missing and presumed dead. It said the final death toll may reach 200.

Indonesia plans Thursday to send a commission to investigate the shootings but one member has already accused Portugal, which quit the territory in 1975, of being behind the incident.

Indonesia annexed East Timor in 1976. Its rule has never been internationally recognised.

On Sunday, the army finally let the International Red Cross visit 89 wounded in the shooting and speak to 32 of them in private.

Several witnesses have contradicted the official version that the army opened fire after mistaking an order and that troops were provoked. Film taken by a British cameraman has been shown in several countries.

A number of countries have expressed outrage over the incident and in Australia there are permanent pickets protesting outside the Indonesian embassy in Canberra.

Allegations of subsequent killings include 60 to 80 Timorese executed on Nov. 15 and another 17 mown down in separate groups two to three days later.

Alfredo Ferreira, a Darwin-based spokesman for East Timor's Fretilin Guerrilla Movement, told Reuters that those subsequently killed had all witnessed previous massacres.

"There are too many independent sources claiming that the subsequent events have taken place to ignore them and that is why we insist there is an urgency to investigate and investigate independently," Amnesty's East Timor campaign coordinator, Andre Frankovits, told a news conference in Sydney.

About 50 Indonesian youths again demonstrated outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta demanding its government apologise for the burning of Indonesian flags by protesters in Australia.

Waving the red-and-white national flag, they threatened to blockade the mission unless Australia stopped its trade unions from picketing Indonesia's embassy in Canberra.

"We will continue our protest until the Australians stop the blockade and stop meddling in Indonesian domestic affairs. We may have to do the same... setting up camps here," said one protest leader.

It is the fourth demonstration outside the embassy, which has sent diplomats to East Timor to investigate events.

Australian troops deploy in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — Australian army signallers left Phnom Penh Monday to set up radio links between United Nations peacekeepers and the Cambodian army under the terms of a peace agreement signed last month.

One three-man detachment accompanied by a New Zealand military liaison officer and a doctor left Pochentong Airport on a French Air Force transport plane for the northwestern city of Battambang, an Australian officer told Reuters.

"As of today, the detachment is to provide communications for the U.N. and liaison in preparation for the deployment of a larger force," he said.

The peacekeepers are part of the 268-strong U.S. Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), which arrived in Phnom Penh this month under the terms of a peace accord signed between the Cambodian government and three guerrilla factions that have fought to overthrow it.

UNAMIC will be followed next year by a full force of peacekeepers, the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is to supervise the demobilisation and disarmament of the rival armies before elections scheduled for 1993.

One of the tasks of UNAMIC is to set up radio links between the rival factions and the United Nations in order to monitor a ceasefire first declared last May.

The Australian officer said the communications detachment would stay in Battambang as long as the advance U.N. force remains in place.

UNAMIC is mandated to stay in Cambodia at least six months and will be merged with UNTAC when it arrives.

Signallers were expected to be deployed at the three guerrilla headquarters within a week, the officer said.

The communications team being stationed in the government area would be based at Battambang Airport, which is also a government military base.

Another team would be sent in the next few days to a government regional headquarters in Siem Reap province which adjoins Battambang. The Australian personnel would be rotated every 21 days, he said.

Shuttle crew deploys missile warning satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Astronauts on the shuttle Atlantis launched a \$300-million missile-warning satellite early Monday only six hours after roaring into space.

The defence support programme (DSP) satellite, nicknamed "Liberty" by the crew, was deployed without a veil of secrecy unlike seven previous highly classified military missions.

"Good deploy, Houston. On time," said astronaut Jim Voss, 42, when the satellite popped out of the cargo bay at 1.03 est (0630 GMT). Atlantis, on its fifth orbit, was 224 miles (360 kilometres) above the Earth and east of Hawaii.

Deploying the satellite was the main task of the 10-day mission aboard Atlantis, which streaked into the sky from the Kennedy Space Centre at 6.44 p.m. est (2244 GMT) Sunday.

The astronauts will also experiment with a collection of spy cameras, telescopes and binoculars.

They face a busy schedule of surveillance research designed to gauge the benefits of sending soldiers into space.

They will test technology that could be applied to future U.S. spy satellites and will attempt to communicate directly with military commanders on the ground.

Belgium in shock after protest poll; Martens resigns

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium reeled with shock Monday after voters turned their backs on traditional parties in elections, handing a huge protest vote to an extremist anti-immigration party and environmentalists.

With nearly all the votes counted, Belgium's mainstream parties lost 10 per cent of their support compared with the last election in 1987, after which it took more than 100 days to form a government.

Outgoing Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, who headed a centre-left coalition that collapsed last month, handed in his formal resignation to King Baudouin Monday, before long and tough negotiations begin on forming a new government.

Commentators said Sunday's poll had been a slap in the face for a political establishment that, with endless feuding, compromised and messy coalition governments, had grown complacent and distant from the people over the years.

Politicians from all the traditional parties queued up to apologise for their errors, criticise extremist parties and to promise that, from now on, things would change.

"If the political class is still incapable of setting up a programme for everyone, it will be signing its own death warrant," said the Dutch-language daily De Morgen.

"This Sunday marked the end of an era and the start of a long crisis," said the French-language La Dernière Heure.

"The first requirement is that there should be a strong government. The people want that," said Frank Vandendriessche, a leading member of the Socialists.

The Socialists — a key partner in the previous coalition along with Mr. Martens's Christian Democrats — took the worst battering in the election.

The coalition parties still have a majority in the 212-seat parliament but relations between them have soured. It is unclear how a new government can be built that would have the two-thirds majority necessary for promised constitutional reform.

Simday's poll not only underlined growing acrimony and division between Belgium's two main regions, French-speaking Wallonia and Dutch-speaking Flanders, but also showed a massive swing to parties which were politically insignificant until now.

One in five voters supported environmentalists, a right-wing Flemish party that wants to send immigrants home, a failed maverick financier now in jail who wants to abolish the monarchy or other small groups.

Voting is compulsory but seven per cent of electors ruined their ballot papers.

"It's a very serious matter. It shows the voters have no confidence in politics," said Mr. Martens, who is expected to head a caretaker administration until a new government is formed.

"We now have to rebuild confidence between the Flemish and francophone government parties."

As so often in the past, the collapse of the last government was prompted by rows over the distribution of economic power between Wallonia and Flanders.

Belgium has had almost 40 governments since World War II, many of them short-lived coalitions, and opinion polls had predicted there would be a significant protest vote.

The country's financial markets were worried that the crisis would exacerbate problems in the economy. Share prices fell by 1.5 per cent when the Brussels Bourse opened.

Mr. Martens, Europe's longest-serving prime minister who has headed the government for all but eight months of the last 12 years, is still tipped by some to head the next government despite his party's poor showing.

"This is the result of the fiddling and dirty tricks in the past years," Guy Verhofstadt, leader of one of the main opposition conservative parties, told state television.

"People have voted anti-politics," he said.

Political analysts believe unhappy voters turned to non-conformist parties to express their disgust with traditional hickering between Dutch and French-speaking parties in the divided country.

The Dutch-speaking north of Belgium, called Flanders, was taken by storm by the right-wing Vlaams Blok, which wants to send immigrants home, create a separate Flemish state and take a tougher line on law and order.

The Vlaams Blok was expected to win around 12 per cent of the vote, four times more than in the last elections in 1987, and was set to become the biggest party in the port of Antwerp, Belgium's second city.

Voters dismissed the street-fighting image of the Vlaams Blok and ignored the conviction last week of one of its leading members, Xavier Buissereet, for attacking and robbing a 14-year-old Moroccan. He is now likely to have a seat in parliament.

"Disgust for traditional politics and its scandals have brought the voter to the Vlaams Blok," said Filip Dewinter, a leading member of the party which openly sympathises with French ultra-right wing politician Jean-Marie Le Pen.

"If fighting to keep Flanders Flemish and Europe European is fascist, then I am more than happy to be a fascist," the party's President Karel Dillen, a member of the European Parliament, said recently.

Some leading politicians said the success of the Vlaams Blok reminded them of the pre-World War II period, when many Bel-

giums openly sympathised with Nazism. The francophone equivalent, the National Front, won a seat for the first time.

But shock over the success of the Vlaams Blok was matched by disbelief over the success of former multi-millionaire Jean-Pierre Van Rossem, possibly the most colourful figure in the history of Belgian politics.

A former heroin addict with shoulder-length hair, Van Rossem, who once bought a Formula One racing team and has a passion for red Ferrari, spent election day behind bars after being jailed in Antwerp Wednesday on fraud charges.

Mr. Van Rossem, who says he was framed, has promised to embarrass the government if elected by revealing details of what he calls "sensitive dossiers."

That promise may have won his maverick party, the Radical Transformers and Social Fighters (ROSSEM in Dutch), enough support to fulfill his promise. The party looks set to win three places in the 212-seat parliament.

"It's remarkable that a wonder figure... like Van Rossem is being sent to parliament," said Viviane Deemester, budget minister in the outgoing centre-left coalition that collapsed last month.

Mr. Vana Rossem built his candidacy on a radical platform which included privatising Belgium's extensive social security system and abolishing the monarchy and marriage. Many people dismissed his campaign as a joke.

Some politicians have alleged he is merely seeking election to obtain parliamentary immunity from prosecution. Even his own party members are unsure what the party's programme is.

Mr. Van Rossem spent a month in jail last year on similar fraud charges before being released pending trial. The case has not yet come to court.

U.K. authorities search N. Ireland jail after blast

BELFAST (R) — Security forces in Northern Ireland began a major search of a top security Belfast prison Monday after a blast believed to have been caused by a bomb killed a 27-year-old Protestant inmate, police said.

Sunday's explosion occurred in the dining hall of the Crumlin Road Prison's C-Wing shortly after prisoners from the rival republican side of Northern Ireland's sectarian and political divide had eaten there.

Hours later, a Roman Catholic delivery driver for a Chinese restaurant was shot dead by two masked men in what one local politician called a revenge attack by Protestant extremists.

Social Democratic and Labour Party politician Alasdair McDonnell said the victim, killed in South Belfast, was "an innocent victim who was an easy target, a sitting duck."

The latest deaths brought to 86 the number of people killed this year in Northern Ireland, 10 more than for all of 1990, and followed a surge in tit-for-tat killings in the past two weeks.

U.S. boxer charged with assault on woman

SYDNEY (R) — One of the United States' top amateur boxers has been charged with assaulting a woman after an incident in a Sydney hotel, police said Monday.

The 20-year-old boxer, a community worker from Ohio, was charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm Saturday. His name has not been released.

Sydney's Telegraph-Mirror newspaper said the woman, from an escort agency, went to a hotel in Sydney's Darling Harbour area where the assault was alleged to have taken place early Saturday. The boxer had been competing in the sixth World Amateur Boxing Championships which finished here Saturday.

Indian cult leader suggests new way to fight AIDS

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian cult leader is proposing using esoteric energy techniques to achieve fluid sex — or "flex" — as a way to avoid AIDS.

Swami Chaitanya Keerti, said Saturday: "Since sex is fast becoming more dangerous than Russian roulette now that semen, saliva and tears are medically acknowledged as possible routes of (AIDS) transmission... there are going to be new ways of making love."

Keerti, who edits the Pune-based Rajneesh commune's Osho Times International, said: "Thousands of meditators around the world are experimenting with new ways of making love with fluidless sex, or 'flex'." "Flex" could help lovers "attain the same orgasmic experience through a synthesis of meditation," he said.

Keerti said fluidless sex used a variety of esoteric energy techniques gathered from ancient spiritual paths, contemporary psychology and Osho's unique insights into human energy systems. Osho is another name for Bhagwan Rajneesh, who founded a cult known for its sex therapies which gained a worldwide following.

Bush, Tyrone and Miriam new popular names in China

PEKING (R) — A new fad for Chinese students to give themselves English names such as Bush and Tyrone is causing a few frowns among teachers, an official newspaper said, Shanghai's Youth Post said the rash of English names, running from Mike, Mary and Miriam to Carmen, Vandy and Whistle, was causing teachers to worry over "wastefulness of things foreign, which might affect the tone of society."

"Some teachers believe people should... keep to Chinese names so as not to show the withering of character and enslavement of spirit," the newspaper said in its Nov. 15 edition, seen in Peking Monday. Other teachers, however, cautiously supported the trend, saying it was important that society be neither too conservative nor too permissive.

Handwritten note in Arabic script: "هذا من الأصل"